

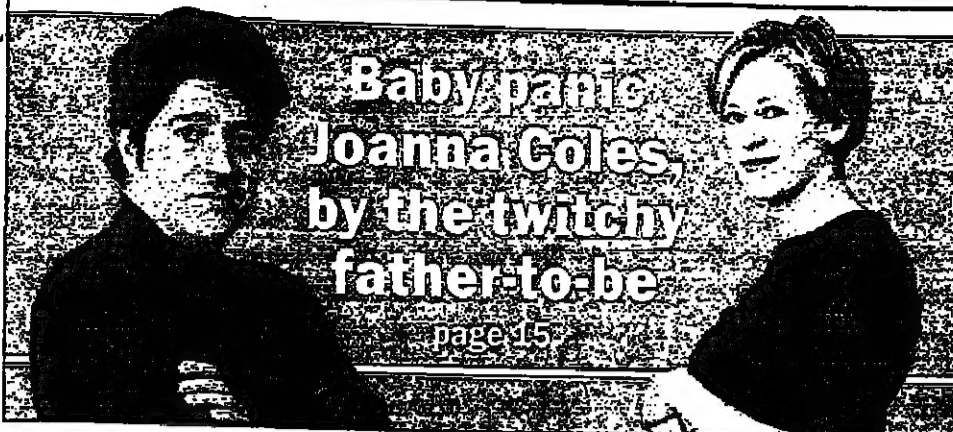
Harrison hit  
by penalty  
of £20,000

# THE TIMES

No. 66,427

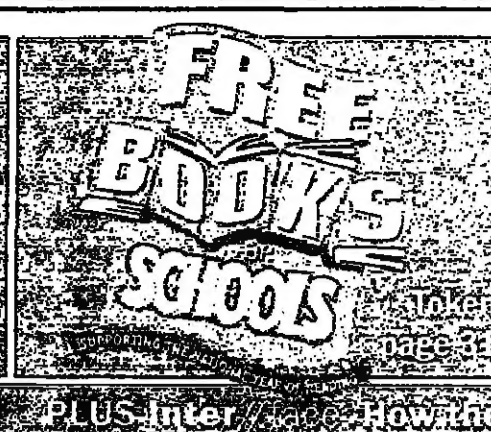
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1999

http://www.the-times.co.uk



Baby panic  
Joanna Coles  
by the twitchy  
father-to-be

page 15



PLUS Inter

How the camera learned to see PLUS Gram

## Hoddle is dismissed for 'serious error'

BY MICHAEL HARVEY AND ADRIAN LEE

GLENN HODDLE was sacked as England's football coach last night after 36 hours of frantic discussions over his suggestion that the disabled were paying for the sins of a previous life.

The FA told Hoddle that he had damaged himself and his employers by his remarks in an interview with *The Times*, and that his position had become untenable.

Hoddle later admitted that he had made a serious error of judgment that had caused pain to a number of people, for which he apologised.

The end came at 6.54pm when David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive and once Hoddle's staunchest ally, read a statement saying: "With regret, the FA and Glenn Hoddle have today agreed to terminate Glenn's contract."

"After more than 24 hours of meetings and discussions it became apparent to all those concerned that this was the right decision for English football."

"The position had become increasingly untenable for both the FA and for Glenn. He accepts he has made a serious error of judgment and, of course, has apologised."

"The past few days have been painful for everyone involved, but that is as nothing compared to any offence that may have been caused to disabled people in our community and in our country. We accept this wasn't Glenn's intention."

"It's unquestionable, though, that the controversy over whatever was or wasn't said had damaged both Glenn and his employers. The FA has rightly considered all the options over recent hours. Glenn has served the England team with dedication and with loyalty. But eventually all parties agreed that this was the correct way forward."

"There was a moment of farce when two men, shouting obscenities, interrupted the reading of the statement before being wrestled to the ground by security guards. One, who said he had disabled relatives, said later: "Glenn



Hoddle leaving his agent's house in London yesterday

Simon Barnes.....6  
Leading article.....17  
Matt Dickinson.....40

Hoddle deserves everything he got. He was completely out of order. Glenn Hoddle is a disgrace to English football."

Hoddle later read out a statement saying: "I accept that I made a serious error of judgment in an interview which caused misunderstanding and pain to a number of people. This was never my intention and for this I apologise."

"My sincere thanks for the support from loved ones, family friends and media colleagues who have worked with me over the past few days to try and establish the truth."

"My personal thanks go to all my staff, colleagues and in

particular the players, with whom I have worked over the past two years. I thank them deeply. My best wishes go to Howard Wilkinson and John Gorman, who take over for the match against France at Wembley this month."

The FA's decision was welcomed by politicians and representatives of the disabled. Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, described the sacking as "a personal tragedy" for Hoddle, but said it was the correct decision. "He is a decent man but his views caused distress to many disabled sportsmen and women," Freda Murray, chairwoman of the Disabled Supporters Association, said: "He hurt not just disabled people but their carers and families."

But Hoddle's faith healer, Eileen Drewery complained that he had been hounded from his job. She said: "It has been a complete witchhunt. There is no way, knowing the man I do, that he would ever cause distress to the disabled."

Hoddle had fought doggedly to save his £350,000-a-year job. He spoke at length to the BBC, ITN and Sky, and yesterday morning his agent was still insisting that he was the best man for the job. But despite all denials and claims that he had been misinterpreted, Hoddle was undone by 71 words that he made no attempt to explain or clarify.

In his interview, he had said: "You and I have been physically given two hands and two legs and half-decent brains. Some people have not been born like that for a reason. The karma is working from another lifetime. I have nothing to hide about that. It is not only people with disabilities. What you sow you have to reap. You have to look at things that happened in your life and ask why? It comes around."

Peter Stothard, editor of *The Times*, said last night: "It is the right decision by the FA. Both what Hoddle said and the way in which he tried to pretend that he hadn't said it made his position untenable."



## Zara speaks up for her Dad

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE teenage daughter of Glenn Hoddle yesterday pleaded for an end to the "hassle" so that things could get back to normal.

Zara Hoddle, 13, wrote to BBC's *Cee-fax* saying: "I am very supportive of disabled people and so is my Dad. But I think this situation is the most pathetic reason for someone to maybe lose their job and to have so much hassle over."

"If you would just take the time to listen to what his explanation is, then maybe you would understand it a bit more. So please consider this from my Dad's point of view and hopefully everything will be back to normal soon."

Hoddle's father, Eric, of Harlow, Essex, blamed the media for his son's downfall. "The press are happy now. They have been after him from the first day he had the job."

"They have always had it in for him. I don't know what he's going to do now and I will be seeing him in the next few days to find out."

Hoddle's former wife, Anne, 40, said: "Obviously we are all very sad for Glenn, especially as he has got to face it all in the glare of publicity."

Anne, Zara's mother, said the girl had been taken back by the interest shown in her letter by the press.

She said: "I don't think she realised how much interest this would attract. She just wanted to show some support for her Dad, that's all."



Zara Hoddle: supportive



Murder victim, Kathryn Linaker, with her husband Chris and children Matthew, 2, and Holly, now four months, at the baby's christening last year

## Life for woman who killed for lust

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE amateur actress Jenny Cupit was jailed for life yesterday for bludgeoning and stabbing to death her lover's wife.

The 24-year-old mother of two changed her plea on the fifth day of her trial at Chester Crown Court and admitted murdering Kathryn Linaker, a 33-year-old deputy headmistress, at her Cheshire home last April.

Cupit, who has a history of psychiatric and emotional turmoil, wept uncontrollably as Mr Justice Sachs told her that she was a serial liar who had killed a good woman out of lust for her husband and jealousy for her. And in a clear reference to the dead woman's husband, Chris Linaker, 35, who was sitting in the public gallery, the judge added that nobody could feel anything other than utter revulsion and disgust at the lifestyle of Cupit and her circle of friends.

Cupit had started a 14-month affair with Mr Linaker, a fellow member of Warrington's Centenary Operatic and Dramatic Society, and had urged him to leave his wife and two small children and run off with her to Canada.

The court was told that Cupit and Mr Linaker, who liked to videotape their activities, had also invited his brother-in-law and her husband to join them for three-in-a-bed sex sessions.

Mrs Linaker knew nothing of her husband's adultery when Cupit arrived at her home in Penketh and attacked her with a heavy vase, a small kitchen knife she had bought that morning from Asda and a carving knife she had fetched from the kitchen drawer. She

then waited up to two hours before raising the alarm.

Cupit had originally denied murder but had pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. She changed her plea yesterday as the court was due to hear evidence of her psychological state.

Mr Justice Sachs told her: "I accept that you had problems in your life, although it is extremely difficult to believe all of what you say. In my view you are a serial liar. Your problems are no worse than hundreds of your fellow human beings who do not behave as you."

"No one hearing the evidence could fail to feel utter revulsion and disgust at your lifestyle and others of your social circle. You must face reality and not fanciful invention."

"You took the life of a blame-

less and talented young woman of 33 years. The killing was obviously premeditated. It was perpetrated in front of her four-month-old daughter. You left Kathryn Linaker's children without a mother and left your own children without a mother for at least a very, very long time."

Like Kathryn Linaker, these four children are totally innocent as to what you did. Their lives are irreversibly damaged. Goodness knows how they will react when they learn fully what you did on April 17 last year. What you did on that day was an absolute outrage. You killed a good woman out of lust for her husband and jealousy for her."

Earlier Adrian Fulford, QC, for the defence, had sought leniency for an emotionally and psychiatrically damaged young woman who had been

led into a dangerous relationship by an older man.

She had suffered a troubled psychiatric history since the early 1990s, was bulimic and had made at least one suicide attempt.

Mr Fulford also suggested that Mr Linaker should bear a heavy responsibility for what had happened. He knew she was a frightened and insecure young woman yet he had locked her into a highly dangerous relationship. "Disaster, but not necessarily this disaster, must have been foreseen on his part," Mr Fulford said.

"This defendant did truly try to get away from this relationship. He, on the other hand, never ever took steps to persuade her to go away. Quite the contrary. He degraded her. He used her and he, to a very important extent, has brought this young woman to this sad pass."

Mr Linaker declined to comment as he left the court.

Jealous rival, page 3



Jenny Cupit is led from court after being jailed for life

## Nanny spared jail over baby

Louise Sullivan, 27, the Australian nanny who shook a six-month-old baby to death, was freed to return to Sydney after a judge ruled that she needed treatment for the mental deficiencies that contributed to the death of Caroline Jørgensen last April. Page 9

## Kosovo talks

The Kosovo Liberation Army said that it would attend the peace conference planned to start in Rambouillet, outside Paris, on Saturday, putting pressure on Belgrade to follow suit. The KLA negotiators will be named today. Page 11

## Byers pledge to help bankrupts start over

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Trade and Industry Secretary, Stephen Byers, last night promised bankruptcy laws which were more "enterprise friendly", saying wealth creation was more important than wealth redistribution.

Mr Byers used his first main speech since he succeeded Peter Mandelson to argue that helping businesses was compatible with social justice. He announced a working group to look at changes making it easier for "responsible

risk takers" whose businesses had failed to start up again.

Speaking at the Lord Mayor's dinner at the Mansion House, Mr Byers said that current bankruptcy laws made no distinction between the risk taker who worked hard but was unsuccessful and "individuals who deliberately set out to cheat their creditors or abuse limited liability". It was important to come down hard on those who exploited the system, he added.

Cultured pearls and diamonds in white 18ct gold

from £2,000

MIKIMOTO

179 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON • 0171 629 5340  
NEW YORK • SOUTH COAST PLAZA • TOKYO • PARIS

LOWEST LINE RE

E 12.9

100

FREE

ODDSEY

0500 72 200



051 72 11 04



# 'Least said, soonest mended' is Labour's motto of the hour

Cynics may sneer that the Government's new presentation strategy means that ministers will only speak to us from Richard and Judy's sofa.

They are wrong. There will be statements in the House too — whenever there is nothing to say.

There was little to say about health yesterday, except on the Government's controversial public sector pay awards. On these, therefore, no statement.

Instead, the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, came to tell MPs about progress on

an uncontroversial scheme. NHS Direct, about which there is no news, except that it proceeds.

It aims to provide a telephone service for citizens anxious about their health. Presumably callers will be told to calm down, take a couple of aspirins and on no account bother a doctor.

This was a curtain-raiser to the string of soothing Commons statements now in store: we might call it Government Direct. MPs will be offered a dispatch box aspirin.

So you might as well get used to reports like this

they are the parliamentary future...

Frank Dobson described NHS Direct and told the House that the scheme was being introduced gradually and was going well.

Alan Duncan, Tory spokesman, reminded MPs that it was a Tory idea, and welcomed it.

David Hinchliffe (Lab, Wakefield) welcomed it twice. Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, welcomed it.

Kali Mountford (Lab, Colne Valley) offered the Government her congratulations.



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

Stephen Dorrell (C, Charnwood) welcomed the news. Anne Begg (Lab, Aberdeen S) welcomed the news.

The Rev Martin Smyth (UUP, Belfast S) welcomed the news.

Kevin Barron (Lab, Rother Valley) praised the scheme, offering it a warm welcome.

John Bercow (C, Buckingham) welcomed it. Evan Harris (Lib Dem, Ox-

ford W & Abingdon) congratulated the Government.

Phyllis Starkey (Lab, Milton Keynes SW) welcomed the news.

But enough. Dobson himself said it all when, greeted by an "Ah!" from the opposition benches, he asked Madam Speaker whether she remembered "as a lass" the doctor's instructions to "open your mouth and say 'Ah!'".

"Too long ago," said Betty, sadly. Not so, Dr New Labour was asking MPs to open their mouths and say "Ah". And they did.

But at Points of Order, John Maples, Tory Defence spokesman, was disinclined to say "Ah". He protested that ministers now refuse to explain their travel expenses. Madam Speaker said there was nothing she could do.

Half an hour later, Sir Edward Heath too, was declining to say Ah. Debating the Government's proposals for constitutional reform, he accused Tony Blair of pursuing

ing a strategy to turn the Commons by stealth into "a daytime occupation" — ruling out those with outside interests. They wanted to create "a mass of stooges," grunted Sir Edward. "They want to cast us off."

John Major agreed. He accused the Government of contempt for dissent. Half the week, now, he said, Parliament had become "derelict, powerless, pointless and empty". "Liberty needs protection from democracy."

A leading member of Labour's awkward squad, Andrew Mackinlay (Thurrock)

remained unwilling to let the Ahs have it. He interrupted Peter Mandelson (speaking with poise from the back benches). Under the Government's proposals, he asked, "how would you get loose cannons, the bloody-minded, the awkward, the irritants" into an Upper Chamber?

You could the Mandelson brain whirr. "And out from under my feet," he thought. "I entirely agree," he told Mackinlay. "The bloody-minded should have their place in the Lords."

Lord Mackinlay of Thurrock? Ah!

## Doctor wants birth control given in school

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING gynaecologist was yesterday criticised after he suggested that teenage girls be fitted with a new device that will stop them having a baby for three years.

John Guillebaud, medical director of the Margaret Pyke Family Planning Centre in London, said the girls could be fitted with the device at the same time as they were given their rubella vaccination.

"In the future, and as a social policy, when you have an area with a huge rate of teenage pregnancies you could go into a school, obviously with the consent of the parents, and fit this device so that everybody would start out not being able to have a baby," he said.

The device is an Implanon, manufactured by the Dutch company Organon, which was given its European licence just before Christmas. It is a tiny rod, fitted under the skin of the arm, which secretes a hormone that prevents pregnancy. It can be removed if the woman decides she wants to become pregnant.

Professor Guillebaud said the fact that the device was "forgettable" made it ideal for use by young women who tended not to remember to take the Pill and who did not

want to be fitted with a coil. Girls are given their German measles vaccination when they are around 12 or 13, and Professor Guillebaud said this could be an opportunity to fit the Implanon rod.

Alison Hadley, national policy officer of the Brook Advisory Bureau, the main advisory bureau on sexual matters for teenagers, said: "This approach is open to eugenics. We don't want a scenario where girls are fitted with these things just because they have a tendency to get pregnant."

"To do that would be disrespectful to them and it ignores the fact that these devices give no protection against sexually-transmitted disease."

"The correct approach to this is to be open with the girls, discuss the question of sex properly with them and give them the fullest education on the subject. These devices should only be used after the fullest discussion with the girl. Young people need to take a positive attitude to sex, not a negative or passive one."

Ann Weyman, chief executive of the Family Planning Association, was also critical of Professor Guillebaud's ideas. "It is more a question of young women having the self-confi-

dence to take control of their lives and make responsible decisions about relationships," she said. "Contraception has to be viewed within this broader context."

Valerie Riches, deputy director of the pressure group Family Youth Concern, said: "I think the whole idea is repugnant. It will give youngsters the go-ahead to engage in sexual intercourse at an even earlier age and will make them more vulnerable to exploitation. It will not protect them from sexually-transmitted diseases and could be very destructive to later relationships. I find the concept alarming."

Yvonne Stait, of the pressure group Concern for Family and Womanhood said: "To have a hormone implanted into your daughters at the same time as a rubella jab seems absolutely abhorrent. It is very much more important that girls and boys are taught about not having sex outside marriage than how to have sex before they are even over the age of consent."

Professor Guillebaud has been a consistent advocate of new methods of contraception and has often been outspoken on the need to prevent young girls becoming pregnant.

## Rival says Sarwar tried to buy lies

THE Labour MP Mohammed Sarwar offered to give a political rival £5,000 if he would swear a false statement before lawyers, a court was told yesterday.

The MP held up five fingers as he tried to persuade Badar Islam to swear on oath that another candidate was to blame for voter registration irregularities, it was alleged at the High Court in Edinburgh.

Mr Islam said that the "angry" MP had made the offer after newspaper stories appeared a few weeks after the general election about campaign irregularities in Glasgow Govan.

Mr Islam, who stood as an Independent Labour candidate, said that about two weeks earlier Mr Sarwar had told him "I will do something for you" if Mr Islam pulled out of the campaign.

Mr Sarwar, 46, of Glasgow, denies two charges of attempting to pervert the course of justice, fraud relating to the addition of four names on the electoral register, and understating election expenses.

Mr Islam, 49, a former professional cricketer and twice-bankrupted businessman, said that Mr Sarwar first asked him to drop his independent campaign when they met at Glasgow Airport a week before the election. At a second meeting, he said, Mr Sarwar again asked him to ease off electioneering. Mr Islam said that he felt he would



Badar Islam alleges that he was offered £5,000 by Mohammed Sarwar, below

benefit if he did as Mr Sarwar asked, but instead stepped up his campaign. He said that after the election, Mr Sarwar persuaded him to make a false statement, to be used within the Labour Party, blaming the candidate Peter Paton for voter registration irregularities and saying that Mr Sarwar had nothing to do with it.

Mr Islam said in court that he did so because Mr Sarwar was the first Muslim MP, but soon after Mr Sarwar asked him to swear a false affidavit before lawyers, which Mr Islam would not do.

At another airport meeting Mr Sarwar again tried to persuade Mr Islam, the court was told. Mr Islam said the MP held his palm up displaying five fingers. He said that when he asked what Mr Sarwar meant, he replied: "Five thousand I give you for a statement." Mr Islam said: "I told him I didn't want the money."

The trial continues.



## Farmers attack EU grant cuts as dishonest

By MICHAEL HORNSBY  
AGRICULTURE  
CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS' leaders yesterday accused taxpayers with a claim that planned cuts in European farm subsidies would knock up to £1.2 billion a year off food prices in the shops.

Franz Fischler, the European Agriculture Commissioner, made the claim in an address to a thousand delegates attending the annual general meeting of the National Farmers' Union in London.

Herr Fischler said that the proposed reform would initially increase the total size of the European Union's £28 billion annual farm budget but claimed that this would be a price worth paying in the long run.

"Governments have to realise that if they want a fitter, leaner, more competitive agricultural sector, then it is going to cost money," he said. "On the other hand, the reform will bring a major overall economic gain both to farming and to consumers."

"Independent studies have shown a potential saving of up to £1.2 billion per annum by the year 2005 if farm-gate prices fall by the full percentage of the proposed reduction and if they are passed on."

Under the current reform proposals, part of a wider overhaul of EU finances known as Agenda 2000, the minimum prices guaranteed to farmers for milk, cereals and beef would be slashed by between 15 and 30 per cent.

These are the prices of which the EU intervenes to buy up farm produce when market demand is weak, a system that has led to the creation of unwanted stockpiles of surplus food. The reforms are intended to eliminate surpluses by forcing farmers to sell their produce at world market prices.

Ben Gill, the NFU's president, said Herr Fischler's claims were "misleading and dishonest", because any gains from price cuts would be largely absorbed by food processors and distributors before they reached the consumer. "The price cuts will not get beyond the farm-gate," he said. "At best they might mean that food prices in the shops would rise more slowly than they otherwise would have done."

## Inmate seizes officer

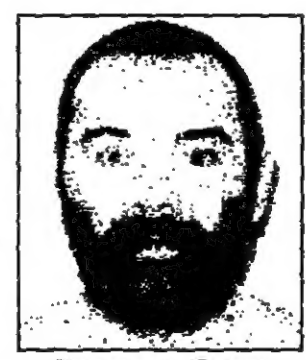
By PAUL WILKINSON

A MAN dubbed Britain's most dangerous prisoner was last night holding a prison officer hostage inside a special unit for troublesome inmates.

Charles Bronson, 45, an 18-stone body-builder, has spent 25 years in jail for violent offences: 21 of them have been in solitary confinement. During that time he has attacked 25 prison officers and been involved in 10 sieges.

The latest started on Monday afternoon in the close supervision centre in Hull prison. The unit, which accommodates up to 10 prisoners in separate cells, is one of four in England and Wales for controlling inmates with disruptive reputations.

A Prison Service spokesman



Bronson: an 18-stone body-builder

said yesterday that there was an "on-going" incident involving a prisoner and a member of staff in the Hull unit. "Staff are talking to the prisoner in an attempt to resolve the situation," he said. "The incident is

confined to the CRC and the rest of the prison is calm and operating normally."

Bronson, who changed his name from Michael Peterson to that of the star of the *Death Wish* series of films, was originally jailed in 1974 for eight years for firearms offences. His sentence has regularly been extended for violence, assault and kidnapping other inmates. He earned the nickname Cannibal after threatening to eat some of the prisoners he took captive during a siege in 1996 at Bellingham jail in South London.

He has taken hostages twice before. In 1994 he briefly held Hull's deputy governor, Adrian Wallace, threatening to break his neck if his demands were not met; in 1993 he held a librarian captive for 14 hours.

## Doctors attack 'false' pay scale

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOCTORS' leaders yesterday accused the Government of "massaging" the figures on their new pay scales to give a misleading impression that they were earning far more than they actually are.

The pay scales, published in *The Times*, were taken from the Health Department's press release on the settlement, which was worth 3.5 per cent for most doctors. The rates shown, however, were only for the very maximum rates that doctors in the different grades could earn and then only after being paid maximum overtime.

The rates given for the most junior house officer grade showed that they were earning £25,512 at present and that this would rise to £26,405 from next April. In fact the basic salary rate for the grade is only £16,145 at present and this will rise to £16,710.

Andrew Hobart, chairman of the British Medical Association's junior doctors' committee, said: "This manipulation of the figures is cynical and exploitative. Junior doctors saw pay figures flashing up on TV screens which they just did not recognise and the mistake

is repeated all over the newspapers."

The tables are based on the maximum earning figures for a 73-hour working week, but junior doctors only get paid half the normal hourly rate for working compulsory overtime at weekends, nights and on holidays. The tables for senior grades were also for the maximum possible rates. This put the consultant scale at £61,605, when the starting rate for the grade is £47,345.

The BMA says that there are two reasons for the Government issuing only the maximum consultants' level. Consultants at the top of the scale get an extra £500 which takes their award to 4.3 per cent, and the second is "they want to inflate consultant salaries for public relations purposes".

The new basic pay scales from April 1 are a minimum of £16,710 and a maximum of £18,860 for a house officer; £20,945-£27,945 senior house officer; £23,300-£28,265 registrar; £26,840-£33,965 senior registrar; £23,300-£33,965 specialist registrar; £47,345-£61,605 consultant; and £64,605-£73,925 for distinction awards.



**Anthony Robbins**  
THE WORLD'S #1 SUCCESS COACH IS BACK IN THE U.K. FOR ONE WEEKEND ONLY!

"The man who has inspired millions to change their lives."  
— Tony King, *World's #1 Success Coach*

"Last year, against all predictions by British pundits who believed that the squeaky-clean, fast-talking American [Robbins] would fall head-first into the cultural divide, he charmed 10,000 people at his live seminars — including parliament, sports stars and leading businessmen — sold thousands of books and tapes and cleared an estimated \$1 million for his work."  
— *Business Age* (Britain's #1 business magazine)

"[Robbins] work has been an enormous source of strength and insight for me both personally and professionally."  
— Peter Guber, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Sony Pictures

"Tony Robbins has astonishing credibility. I have never seen a more powerful technology or a more powerful communicator. He walks his talk."  
— Scott DeGarmo, Editor-in-Chief, Success Magazine

Robbins is a great public speaker. The best I have ever heard."  
— *The Telegraph*, UK

For a FREE brochure and audio cassette call or fax now:  
**TEL 0171 351 9452**  
**FAX 0171 376 7478**

easy@demon[no.5]



piece together the jigsaw.

what could be easier than that? getting on-line with demon of course. we've made it so easy, anyone can do it. just call us on 0800 027 9199 or scribble your name and address anywhere on this ad and send it to us at freepost demon (yes, that's all you have to write). we'll send you our free 30-day trial cd. it doesn't get any easier than that.

**Demon Internet**  
**0800 027 9199**

A Scottish Telecom Company

www.demon.net email: sales@demon.net



# 'We simply cannot understand how any human being could do this to another'



Kathryn Linaker's twin sister Fiona and parents Sheila and Ken Pearson at a press conference yesterday

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE parents of Kathryn Linaker spoke last night of their struggle to understand why their daughter was savagely murdered after she had apparently found happiness in her family and her career.

Mrs Linaker's father Ken Pearson, 65, and his wife Sheila, who live in Rainhill, Merseyside, spoke movingly of Kathryn, 33, shortly after they watched Jenny Cupit start a life sentence for her murder.

They described their daughter as a wonderful mother of Matthew, who was two years old, and Holly, only four months, when she was killed last April.

Talented and beautiful, Mrs Linaker was combining motherhood with a blossoming career as a teacher and an author. She was hoping that her acting deputy headship at St James's Primary School, Haydock, would be confirmed. She had written resource information books for teachers and two series of work-books for nursery children.

Mr Pearson, who had followed every day of the trial from the public gallery, said: "It [the trial] showed that Kathy was blameless and was, in fact, the innocent victim of this whole tragic situation."

"As far as Jenny Cupit is concerned, we simply cannot understand how any one human being could do this to another, and particularly someone who would want to help. We certainly do not feel anger and we

## Parents say they feel no hatred for their daughter's killer

### THE FAMILY

do not feel hatred. We simply cannot relate to someone who behaves in this manner."

Mr and Mrs Pearson and Kathryn's twin sister Fiona are anxious not to upset the delicate family balance. They refuse to talk about Kathryn's husband Chris, who was exposed in court as a philandering adulterer.

Mr Pearson said: "After the tragedy, Chris and the children went to live with his parents." They explained that Mrs Linaker had worked full-time "and the pattern of child care was well established. Two days a week the children were with us, one day with Chris's parents, and two days in the nursery."

"Chris has endeavoured to maintain this. With love and affection, I am sure that he has helped them through this time."

Mrs Pearson said that they had felt compelled to attend the trial each day, despite having to steel themselves to the horror. "We had to know the truth so that we could both learn to live with it and eventu-

ally hope perhaps to understand why it happened. Also, because we were not with Kathryn when she died, we wanted to reassure ourselves that she was unconscious for most of this vicious attack and she would not have been aware of what was happening."

The family said that they wanted to convey Kathryn's many qualities as a wife, a



Kathryn Linaker on her graduation day

mother, a teacher, a musician and "as a person" which was why they had spoken publicly.

Meanwhile, the family hope to take an active role in the children's upbringing. Matthew, said Mrs Pearson, is at a delightful and inquisitive age where he can take joy from simple things, like a trip to the library or to feed the ducks in the park. "All the things that children do," said Mrs Pearson. "It helped us over the last few months to be able to do that with him."

When Kathryn died, said Mr Pearson, the children at her school wrote many letters to them full of affection for their missing teacher.

"It would come out that she was always smiling, always happy, always prepared to play little games with them," said Mr Pearson. "She was just that kind of person."

Mrs Pearson said she would remember how her daughter would return from work, pop her head round the door and happily call out "hello". Matthew would come running to her and give her a big hug.

Kathryn's twin sister Fiona Gent, an accountant, said: "I most miss her sense of humour. She had a knack of finding the funny side and she adored my children. She spent hours chasing them around the garden. She was just one of those people who could relate to adults and children."

"She was a beautiful woman and a loving person. She will remain in the hearts of everyone who knew her."



Jenny Cupit, who yesterday admitted murdering Kathryn Linaker, is led away from Chester Crown Court

## Jealous rival finally took centre stage in tragedy

JENNY CUPIT always coveted one of the big parts in the shows put on by the Centenary Operatic and Dramatic Society.

She watched enviously from the chorus line in *The Sound of Music*, *Camelot*, *Broadway Nights*, *The King and I* and *Annie* as others took the applause. One of the leading actresses was Kathryn Linaker, the wife of her lover.

It was the beginning of a consuming jealousy that led to Mrs Linaker's murder in a ferocious assault.

Like Cupit, Kathryn Linaker, 33, was a member of the circle whose social life revolved around the local drama society in Warrington, Cheshire, with its theatrical passions, crises and scandals. Outwardly, the two women, and their husbands, became a firm foursome. However, in social class and emotions, they were very different.

The drama group, which once featured Sporty Spice among its members, is a well respected society that was launched in the early 1900s by workers at the town's Crossfield factory. After rehearsals, the aspiring actors and actresses would relax and enjoy a drink at the nearby Bowling Green Hotel.

Cupit, a hairdresser, was insecure, obsessed about her appearance and desperate to be the centre of attention. She also had a dual personality: she could be bubbly, outgoing and the life and soul of the

### THE KILLER

party; at other times, and for long periods, she appeared moody, withdrawn and prone to irrational emotional outbursts. Whatever her mood, she liked to flutter around men, flirting with them outrageously.

Members of the dramatic society said she was always anxious to move to centre stage from her habitual place as a chorus line dancer. She once threw a tantrum when she failed to win a part.

Jenny Cupit was born Jennifer Lythgoe and grew up in modest circumstances in Warrington. She had an undistinguished academic record at Appleton High School. She was said to have been desperately upset by the break-up of her parents, Paul, a fire safety officer, and Sheila.

She was in her teens when she joined a dance troupe in Warrington run by Nick Cupit. She moved in with him and they already had an 11-month-old daughter, Laura, when they married at St Andrew's Church, Orford. She was 19.

They lived in a £40-a-week council house, struggling to make ends meet on Mr Cupit's modest salary as a computer sales administrator. She was trying to start up a mobile hairdressing business.

After the birth of their second child, the marriage foundered. Cupit later told po-

lice during interviews that her husband had wanted an "open marriage" so that each could pursue other relationships. He had urged her to go to clubs where they could meet like-minded couples.

Sally Alcock, Mrs Linaker's sister-in-law, said that society members thought of Cupit, 24, as a woman with deep-seated psychological problems. Barbara Cupit, her mother-in-law, said: "She was two people. She became a very different girl. I don't know her anymore."

Her moods worsened after the birth of her second baby, Benjamin, in June 1995, when she developed bulimia. She would faint during rehearsals, ensuring that she became the centre of attention.

When her jealousy finally overwhelmed her, Cupit ambushed Mrs Linaker at her home. In a rage, she beat her over the head with a vase. As the stricken woman collapsed into the lounge, Cupit stabbed her in the back with a Kitchen Devil knife in a blow that may have paralysed her. Then, leaving bloody footprints on the carpet, she went to the kitchen for a carving knife, which she plunged at least three times into her victim's stomach.

Cupit watched Mrs Linaker die and then waited up to two hours before calling her in-laws to tell them: "Kathy's dead." They found her standing in the hallway comforting the dead woman's baby with a bottle of milk.

## Husband told that he shares the blame

### THE MEN

AS CHRIS LINAKER sat in the public gallery watching his former lover being sent to jail for life, he also heard scathing criticism of his own role in his wife's death.

The slightly round, unremarkable figure was shunned by his wife's family, who were sitting nearby. Mr Linaker emerges from the court case as a philanderer who betrayed his talented and innocent wife.

He pursued a younger, volatile lover for his own sexual gratification, playing a leading role in the drama that led to his wife's murder. He was still seeking sex from Jenny



Mr Linaker, left, Mr Cupit and Mr Alcock all used Jenny Cupit to live out sex fantasies



Cupit — by then an unstable, desperate woman begging him to leave his wife and family — in a car park on the day before her murder.

Cupit's lawyer, Adrian Fulford, QC, said that Mr Linaker had known that Cupit was a frightened and insecure young woman and yet had "locked her into a highly dangerous relationship".

He added: "He degraded her. He used her and he, to a very important extent, has brought this young woman to this sad pass."

Mr Linaker, 35, has lost his

wife, his reputation and his job and has been forced to sell his house in Warrington. The couple who bought it asked a priest to bless the property before moving in.

Mr Linaker, the court was told, had a penchant for pornographic videos, which he swapped with his brother-in-law, Neil Alcock, another mainstay of the drama society.

It was to Mr Alcock, 34, that Mr Linaker turned to when he wanted to set up a three-in-a-bed session with himself and Jenny Cupit. Mr Alcock, a balding figure, agreed — "stu-

pidity", as he put it later. They filmed themselves having sex in the back bedroom of the Linakers' house, and the men later sat together as they replayed the tape.

Nick Cupit, 27, Jenny Cupit's husband, was never seen in court, yet he was not an innocent party, said Alex Carlile, QC, for the prosecution. Mr Cupit, a sales administrator, was persuaded by his wife to take part in a three-in-a-bed session with her and Mr Linaker. He even suggested to his wife that she and her lover start before him.

# TAX FREE. JARGON FREE.

Baron's Guide to PEPs, TESSAs and ISAs



# TOTALLY FREE.

direct

0800 917 97 97

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. For your security all calls are recorded and randomly monitored.

051 27 11 47



السؤال الأول

**PC WORLD**  
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

# SALE

**BRITAIN'S  
BIGGEST  
COMPUTER  
SALE**

**SAVE UP TO £20  
ON SCANNERS**

**AGFA Flatbed Scanner**  
600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution.  
MODEL: Agfa SnapScan 1212p.  
WAS £179  
**SAVE £10**  
SALE PRICE **£169**

**AGFA SCSI Flatbed Scanner**  
600 x 1200 dpi optical resolution.  
MODEL: Agfa SnapScan 1212s.  
WAS £169  
**SAVE £20**  
SALE PRICE **£149**

**PLUSTEK Flatbed Scanner**  
Transparency adaptor included.  
MODEL: Plustek 9930 Transparenc.  
WAS £129  
**SAVE £20**  
SALE PRICE **£109**

**SAVE UP TO £20  
ON ALL-IN-ONE PRINTERS**

**HEWLETT PACKARD  
Printer, Copier, Scanner & Fax**  
600 x 300 dpi resolution colour  
printer, colour copier, colour  
scanner and plain paper fax machine.  
MODEL: DJ 615.  
WAS £349  
**SAVE £20**  
SALE PRICE **£329**

**HEWLETT PACKARD  
Printer, Copier & Flatbed Scanner**  
Prints, copies and scans in full  
colour. Fast printing at up to  
8 pages per minute. Flatbed  
design allows easy copying  
and scanning.  
MODEL: DJ 1150C.  
WAS £399  
**SAVE £20**  
SALE PRICE **£379**

**HEWLETT PACKARD  
Printer, Copier & Flatbed Scanner**  
Prints, copies and scans in full  
colour. Fast printing at up to  
8 pages per minute. Flatbed  
design allows easy copying  
and scanning.  
MODEL: DJ 1150C.  
WAS £399  
**SAVE £20**  
SALE PRICE **£379**

**free serve**  
for  
**free**  
unlimited  
Internet  
access  
Pick up a free trial today!  
The fast and easy way to a fully featured Internet  
Package for the cost of a local call  
[www.freeserve.net](http://www.freeserve.net)

**SAVE UP TO £200 ON PCs**

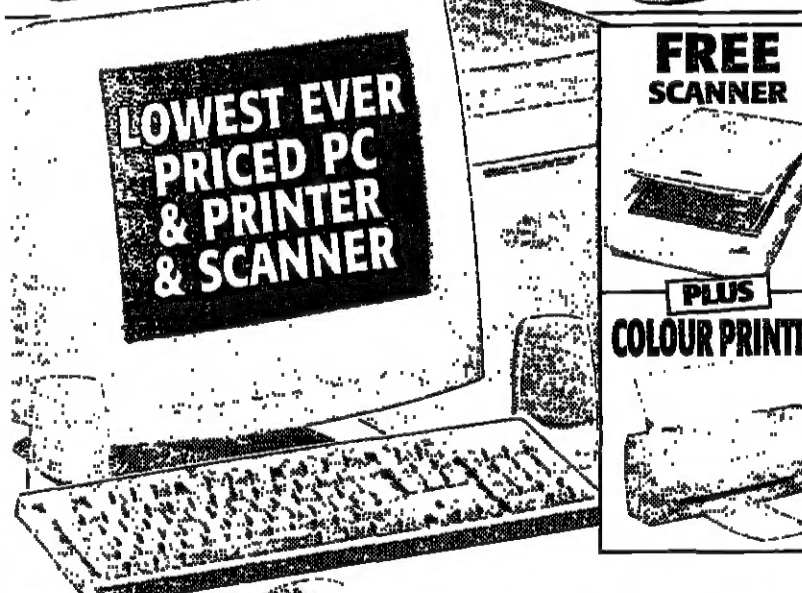


**PACKARD BELL**  
**Cyrix MII 300 Processor**  
32Mb RAM, 3.2Gb Hard Disk, 512k  
Cache Memory, 32x Multimedia,  
4Mb Graphics\*, 14" Colour  
Monitor, 56k Modem, plus over  
£500 of software\* including  
Windows 98, Word, Works, Encarta  
98, GCSE Maths and English,  
Pingu, Actua Soccer 2, a selection  
of Internet software and more.  
MODEL: Club 40

**WAS £799 SAVE £100**

**PC WORLD SALE PRICE**

**£699**  
OR £20 per month\*



**PATRIOT Cyrix MII 300 Processor**  
32Mb RAM, 2.1Gb Hard Disk, 512k Cache Memory,  
32x Multimedia, 4Mb Graphics\*, 14" Colour Monitor,  
Includes Windows 98.  
MODEL: Patriot 300.

**PLUS FREE COLOUR FLATBED SCANNER.**  
MODEL: Primus 9600  
**PLUS COLOUR INKJET PRINTER.**  
MODEL: Lexmark C1100

**PC WORLD PRICE**  
**£599**  
OR £17 per month\*



**iMAC**  
**233MHz PowerPC G3 Processor**  
32Mb SDRAM, 4.0Gb Hard Disk, 512k Cache Memory,  
24x Multimedia, 6Mb SGRAM Graphics, 56k Modem,  
Built-in 15" Colour Monitor, PC World Sale Price  
connection, Includes:  
Mac OS 8.5,  
Netscape Navigator  
and much more.  
MODEL: iMac.

**PC WORLD SALE PRICE**  
**£799**  
WAS £999 SAVE £200 OR £25 per month\*

**THE ULTIMATE FAMILY PACKAGE  
FROM HEWLETT PACKARD**

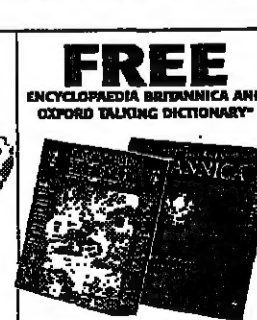
**HEWLETT PACKARD**  
**400MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor**  
64Mb SDRAM, 6.4Gb Hard Disk, 128k Cache Memory,  
4x DVD-ROM Drive, 8Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Turbo  
Graphics, 56k V.90 Modem, 15" Colour Monitor, TV-out  
Connector, Windows 98, MS Works, Quicken, Money 99,  
Encarta 99 World Atlas and more. MODEL: Pavilion 6405.

**PC WORLD PRICE**  
**£1199**  
INC VAT

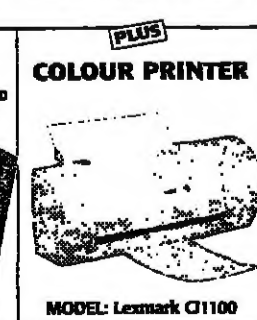


**FREE SCANNER**

MODEL: Primus 9600



**FREE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA AND OXFORD TALKING DICTIONARY\***



**PLUS COLOUR PRINTER**

MODEL: Lexmark C1100

**PLUS FREE COMPUTER DESK**



**DVD**  
**400MHz PROCESSOR**

**SAVE UP TO £100  
ON PERIPHERALS**

**56k v.90  
INTERNAL MODEM**  
Modular Technology  
WAS £59.99  
**SAVE £10**  
PC WORLD SALE PRICE **£49.99**

**SOUND CARD**  
Creative Labs  
Sound Blaster  
Live!  
Professional quality  
sound for your PC.  
WAS £149  
**SAVE £20**  
PC WORLD SALE PRICE **£129**

**RE-WRITABLE CD  
RECORDER**  
Hewlett  
Packard  
8100L  
24x playback,  
4x write,  
70 reuse.  
WAS £319  
**SAVE £20**  
PC WORLD SALE PRICE **£299**

**DIGITAL CAMERA**  
Olympus C-1000L  
1024 x 768 maximum  
resolution,  
2Mb SmartMedia memory  
supplied.  
WAS £499  
**SAVE £100**  
PC WORLD SALE PRICE **£399**

**DIGITAL CAMERA**  
Fujitsu M2700  
1280 x 1024  
maximum resolution,  
2Mb SmartMedia  
memory supplied.  
WAS £599  
**SAVE £50**  
PC WORLD SALE PRICE **£549**

**SAVE UP TO £200  
ON PORTABLES**

**SONY**  
266MHz Intel® Pentium®  
Processor with MMX™  
Technology  
32Mb SDRAM,  
3.2Gb Hard Disk,  
12.1" HPA Colour Display,  
512k Cache Memory,  
24x CD-ROM,  
Windows 98,  
MODEL: PGG-7450J.

**PC WORLD PRICE**  
**£999**

**COMPAQ**  
266MHz AMD K6  
Processor  
32Mb SDRAM, 3.2Gb Hard  
Disk, 12.1" HPA Colour  
Display, 24x CD-ROM,  
512k L2 Cache,  
Windows 98,  
2Mb Graphics  
Memory,  
MODEL:  
Prestario 1234.

**PC WORLD SALE PRICE**  
**£1199**  
WAS £1399 SAVE £200

**TOSHIBA**  
300MHz AMD  
K6-2 Processor  
64Mb RAM, 4.0Gb Hard Disk,  
12.1" TFT Colour Display,  
24x CD-ROM, v.90 Modem,  
Windows 98,  
MS Works 97,  
MODEL:  
Satellite 2520 CDT.

**NEW**  
**PC WORLD PRICE**  
**£1499**

**We won't  
be beaten  
on price\***

**STORES NATIONWIDE  
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL  
0990 464 464**

# PC WORLD

**THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE**

\*We promise that if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local retail store within 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the difference guaranteed - provided you can produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer.  
\*Based on current selling prices of actual or equivalent items (excluding duties and manuals for pre-loaded software). \*On all PCs and printers over £250. Cash Payment Insurance (CPI) is optional and will protect your payments in case of accident, unemployment or illness. CPI is not included in the monthly repayments unless otherwise stated. TYPICAL EXAMPLE: (Midweek CPI) Cash Price £699. No Deposit, and 48 monthly payments of £20.66 - total amount payable £1011.68. Minimum purchase £250. Subject to status. Written quotations available from: Dept 248/PCW, 248lands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2TE. The Intel Inside logo, Pentium, Celeron and MMX are Registered Trademarks of the Intel Corporation. \*Shared with main system memory. \*Illustrated for illustrative purposes only.

APR 1999%







men host  
red with  
and apolo



Argentina match. Football is part of people's pleasures, part of people's lives. Football is trivial, of course it is trivial, but people care about it. It matters. And so football empowers otherwise small and unimportant people. And there is only one thing in the world more dangerous than religion. And that is power.

## Sponsors believe FA made right decision



## Major: accused Blair of hunting for headlines

"If there's a mob mentality, then this Government will put itself at the head of that mentality to garner a headline or

The Prime Minister was drawn into the Hoddle debate when he appeared on Granada TV's *This Morning* programme on Monday. Asked by Richard Madeley whether he thought it was time for Hod-

Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, said: "The Prime Minister's intervention has simply confused matters. They seem to be getting in a muddle over this, and it is not now clear what the Prime Minister really meant."

"We wanted to help football clean up its act and this episode was a disaster," says the president. "As a sponsor we were obliged to disassociate ourselves from unacceptable views which caused distress to our members."

However, the Labour peer Lord Ashley, who was deaf for some 25 years, said: "An aggressive media, a weak Football Association and his own

John Maxton, a Labour member of the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee, said: "I think Hoddle had no option but to resign. His statements were unacceptable."

SALE EXTENDED FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY




# HALF PRICE SALE

**PLUS FREE FULLY  
INTEGRATED DISHWASHER**  
*worth £619*  
WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £3,500

**OR FREE AMERICAN  
FRIDGE FREEZER\*\***  
*worth £899*  
WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £6,500

10% OFF CORIAN AND  
GRANITE WORKTOPS

- ☐ *Fantastic* savings on the entire Magnet range of kitchen and bedroom cabinets
- ☐ *Service* that's second to none
- ☐ *Optional* stainless steel dynamic drawer system on most kitchens
- ☐ *Wide* range of worktops including solid granite and corian
- ☐ *Great* deals on  and **Whirlpool** appliances

No one else offers as much. But then no one else offers kitchens that are designed for living, built for life. Your life.

CALL 0800 102 102

## Magnet

*Designed for living* BUILT FOR LIFE

[www.merck.com](http://www.merck.com)

**FREE 3D COLOUR DESIGN AND PLANNING SERVICE**

**10 YEAR GUARANTEE ON OUR UNIQUE RIGID CARCASSES**

**EXPERT FITTING BY MASTER INSTALLERS**

**FLEXIBLE PAYMENT SCHEMES AVAILABLE.**

Evening hours Monday to Saturday 9.00am-9.00pm. Selected branches open until 9.00pm on Thursday and 10.00am-1.00pm on Sunday. Check each branch for details.

Have a



# Yemen hostages freed with gifts and apologies

FROM DANIEL MCGRORY IN ADEN

TWO Britons held hostage in Yemen for 15 days were released yesterday, after receiving apologies and gifts from their kidnappers.

Eddie and Mary Rosser, and a Dutch family abducted with them, were released into the safekeeping of the tribal sheikh who was reportedly behind their abduction.

Before being driven from a mountain hideout, they were showered with gifts including an ornate antique bolt-action rifle by the tribesmen who abducted them. They were taken to Sheikh Abdul Aziz al-Shaif's villa in the capital, Sanaa, where he offered profuse apologies and invited the captives to share a traditional breakfast with his neighbours and scores of others.

The Rossers hope to stay in Yemen to complete their six-month contract for a charity.

Mr Rosser, 61, said: "We bear no grudges to our captors. We never felt in danger from them and they never stopped apologising for taking us. There were some very nice guys among them and we made some good relationships, so we don't want to see them punished and we don't want to leave this country."

His wife, 64, was still wearing tribal dress given to her by the sheikh. "It sounds strange to some but these gifts are very personal to us; they were well meant and we shall keep them as memories," Mr Rosser said.

The couple, who ran a guest-house for aid workers for the charity Worldwide Services, were kidnapped with two Dutch colleagues and their two young children. On their first night in captivity the gunmen told Mrs Rosser and the

Dutch woman that they could leave with the children, but they refused to go without their husbands.

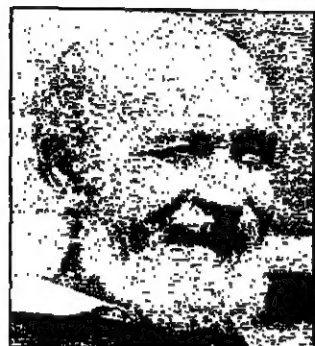
Over dinner, the tribesmen explained that the hostages were only a consolation prize, because a more ambitious kidnap had been planned. "They told us that they had set off for Sanaa with the intention of capturing someone from the American Embassy but didn't manage it and were coming home empty-handed when they bumped into us."

After 15 days in captivity, the Rossers were woken by a tribesman in the early hours and told that they were going back to Sanaa. They were handed over to the British Ambassador, Vic Henderson, and his Dutch counterpart.

Mr Rosser, from Lechlade, Gloucestershire, said: "The first thing we did was speak to our children, Paul and Penny. We want to talk to them about what we do next, but we both would love to see our contract. It is a lovely country and we love the Yemeni people."

Tribesmen said that the Yemen Government had paid £30,000 for the release. The Foreign Office and Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied knowledge of a ransom.

Tony Blair welcomed the release. "Given recent events, we should consider ourselves very fortunate it has had a good ending," he said.



Eddie and Mary Rosser: hoping to stay in Yemen



## Boy's body found in canal

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE body of a teenage rugby player who had been missing for four days was discovered in a canal yesterday.

George Mortimer's body was found in red beds a few hundred yards from his home in Exeter.

George, 16, was last seen on Friday when he told a friend he was meeting two men by the River Exe, which runs

alongside the canal. His body was taken to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital for a post-mortem examination by a Home Office pathologist.

The body was discovered after 30 police officers, believed to be acting on a tip-off, resumed their search of the Exe and the Exeter ship canal.

George's parents, Barry, a self-employed businessman, his wife Alice, and older brother Sam were being comforted

at their home by specially trained police.

The 6ft 1in teenager, who was captain of Exeter Rugby club under-16 team, was last seen at his home at 5pm on Friday. He had been due to visit a friend but did not arrive.

Last night police, who have launched a murder inquiry, were questioning two men from Altrincham, Cheshire, arrested on Monday. One is 32, the other is in his twenties.



"I expect to get money, fame and fortune": Alara Gee, left, under the camera lights yesterday with her fellow pupil Katie Allison

## Model students capitalise on lessons

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TEENAGERS at a comprehensive school who set up a modelling agency as part of their business studies are to relaunch it as a commercial venture. They have recruited fellow pupils — girls and boys — as models.

Sixteen-year-old Alara Gee has already completed several professional assignments, including a shoot for the Halifax Bank magazine and a portfolio using Max Foundation produced by Harvey Nichols, the fashion store. She said: "The work is great fun. It is definitely a good start for a teenager. I expect to get money, fame and fortune."

The students at Boston Spa Comprehensive School in West Yorkshire call their business Premier Snakers, after the models' wiggle on the catwalk. They were expected to create and run an imaginary firm for their advanced business studies course but decided that only the real thing would do.

They raised launch capital of £70 and set up the company under the Young Enterprise scheme. They planned to liquidate it after the sum-



Alex Simmons, centre, presents his co-members of Premier Snakers

mer term but will now relaunch it immediately afterwards as a continuing business. Premier Snakers has yet to make a profit but its founders expect that to change after the relaunch. They have 26 models on their books, aged 16 to 18, who were selected by

their classmates. The 11 girls and 15 boys have had a portfolio of photos taken by Ross Featherstone, 16. They will appear in a calendar being created to win outside work and next month will take part in their own fashion show. Sponsors are being sought

for the calendar and part of its profits will go to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

John Cuthell, the school's business course co-ordinator, said it was the first time that he had known business students to set up a modelling agency.

Alex Simmons, 16, of Leeds, the joint managing director, said: "We wanted to do something a bit different. A modelling agency seemed perfect. What we're really excited about is that it gives us the chance to carry things on after school. I have always wanted to be successful in everything I do. I am a very bad loser."

Lee Hicken, 17, the other joint MD, said he believed that the agency was the first of its kind. "We just saw a lot of really nice people around school who we thought would make it as models. I just thought of all this talent going to waste and we decided to do something about it."

Lee Hawkins, 16, from Collingham, West Yorkshire, said that he had no qualms about posing for the camera. "Giving it a go in front of your friends must be less nerve-racking than modelling for a lot of strangers."

**Want multi-media, multi-software, multi-everything?**



The most complete PC package

around comes with the super-fast

Intel® Celeron™ 400MHz processor,

Epson Stylus colour printer, Hewlett Packard scanner

and heaps of great software. All for under £1,000

(£1224.35 inc. VAT and delivery). Alternatively, discuss

what you want with us and we'll build the PC around

your personal requirements. Call us today.

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor, 400MHz
- 128MB Full-Speed L2 Cache
- 64MB SDRAM, expandable to 256MB
- 3.2GB 9.5mm Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 33.3MHz 33.3mm CD-ROM
- 3D ACP Graphics Accelerator with 8MB SDRAM
- Epson Stylus 440 Colour Printer
- HP Scanjet 5900C Scanner
- Sound Blaster® AudioPCI® 640
- Akasa® Lansing GCS100 Speakers
- Teleshop® 11.50 Windows®
- 15" EVS00 TCO-99, 0.284p Monitor
- ATX Mini Tower Case
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- Reference Pack
- MSN® Home Essentials 98
- Year 2000 Hardware Compliance

£999\* (£1224.35 inc. VAT and delivery)

OR £49 A MONTH\* (APR 18.9%)

Freephone 0800 74 2000

**Have it your way** Gateway

Gateway Stores: Crayford The Whifflet Centre Kingston The Bantall Centre Covent Garden 10 Bedford Street Manchester The Trafford Centre  
Gateway Europe European Headquarters: Clonsilla Industrial Estate • Dublin 17 • Ireland Sales Phone Lines Open Monday to Friday 9am-10pm, Saturday 9am-5pm

©1999 Gateway 2000 Europe. All rights reserved. Gateway, YourWay and the Gateway stylized logo are trademarks of Gateway 2000 Inc. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks, and Celeron is a trademark of the Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. All sales subject to Gateway 2000 Europe's standard terms and conditions (available on request) and limited warranty. All prices and configurations are subject to change without notice or obligation. All prices are quoted in Sterling. The software and hardware listed here are sold only with a purchase of a Gateway PC. Many Gateway products are custom-engineered to Gateway specifications, which may vary from the retail versions of the software and/or hardware in functionality, performance or compatibility. Warranty standard practice is to measure minutes using the CPT sign. Actual viewing area can be approx. 1.2" less. \*Minimum throughput. Performance will vary depending on your local conditions. Software supplied by Gateway boxes, not the retail boxes on display.

\*You are made a Gateway customer by purchasing a Gateway PC. Cash terms 14 days. Loan terms 12 months. Repayment 11 monthly payments of £49.99 plus 1 final payment of £12.41. Total payments include £1224.35. APR 18.9%. This is a variable rate. The rate may change. 2. All payments made by direct debit. 3. All figures are estimates. 4. All figures are estimates. 5. All figures are estimates. 6. All figures are estimates. 7. All figures are estimates. 8. All figures are estimates. 9. All figures are estimates. 10. All figures are estimates. 11. All figures are estimates. 12. All figures are estimates. 13. All figures are estimates. 14. All figures are estimates. 15. All figures are estimates. 16. All figures are estimates. 17. All figures are estimates. 18. All figures are estimates. 19. All figures are estimates. 20. All figures are estimates. 21. All figures are estimates. 22. All figures are estimates. 23. All figures are estimates. 24. All figures are estimates. 25. All figures are estimates. 26. All figures are estimates. 27. All figures are estimates. 28. All figures are estimates. 29. All figures are estimates. 30. All figures are estimates. 31. All figures are estimates. 32. All figures are estimates. 33. All figures are estimates. 34. All figures are estimates. 35. All figures are estimates. 36. All figures are estimates. 37. All figures are estimates. 38. All figures are estimates. 39. All figures are estimates. 40. All figures are estimates. 41. All figures are estimates. 42. All figures are estimates. 43. All figures are estimates. 44. All figures are estimates. 45. All figures are estimates. 46. All figures are estimates. 47. All figures are estimates. 48. All figures are estimates. 49. All figures are estimates. 50. All figures are estimates. 51. All figures are estimates. 52. All figures are estimates. 53. All figures are estimates. 54. All figures are estimates. 55. All figures are estimates. 56. All figures are estimates. 57. All figures are estimates. 58. All figures are estimates. 59. All figures are estimates. 60. All figures are estimates. 61. All figures are estimates. 62. All figures are estimates. 63. All figures are estimates. 64. All figures are estimates. 65. All figures are estimates. 66. All figures are estimates. 67. All figures are estimates. 68. All figures are estimates. 69. All figures are estimates. 70. All figures are estimates. 71. All figures are estimates. 72. All figures are estimates. 73. All figures are estimates. 74. All figures are estimates. 75. All figures are estimates. 76. All figures are estimates. 77. All figures are estimates. 78. All figures are estimates. 79. All figures are estimates. 80. All figures are estimates. 81. All figures are estimates. 82. All figures are estimates. 83. All figures are estimates. 84. All figures are estimates. 85. All figures are estimates. 86. All figures are estimates. 87. All figures are estimates. 88. All figures are estimates. 89. All figures are estimates. 90. All figures are estimates. 91. All figures are estimates. 92. All figures are estimates. 93. All figures are estimates. 94. All figures are estimates. 95. All figures are estimates. 96. All figures are estimates. 97. All figures are estimates. 98. All figures are estimates. 99. All figures are estimates. 100. All figures are estimates. 101. All figures are estimates. 102. All figures are estimates. 103. All figures are estimates. 104. All figures are estimates. 105. All figures are estimates. 106. All figures are estimates. 107. All figures are estimates. 108. All figures are estimates. 109. All figures are estimates. 110. All figures are estimates. 111. All figures are estimates. 112. All figures are estimates. 113. All figures are estimates. 114. All figures are estimates. 115. All figures are estimates. 116. All figures are estimates. 117. All figures are estimates. 118. All figures are estimates. 119. All figures are estimates. 120. All figures are estimates. 121. All figures are estimates. 122. All figures are estimates. 123. All figures are estimates. 124. All figures are estimates. 125. All figures are estimates. 126. All figures are estimates. 127. All figures are estimates. 128. All figures are estimates. 129. All figures are estimates. 130. All figures are estimates. 131. All figures are estimates. 132. All figures are estimates. 133. All figures are estimates. 134. All figures are estimates. 135. All figures are estimates. 136. All figures are estimates. 137. All figures are estimates. 138. All figures are estimates. 139. All figures are estimates. 140. All figures are estimates. 141. All figures are estimates. 142. All figures are estimates. 143. All figures are estimates. 144. All figures are estimates. 145. All figures are estimates. 146. All figures are estimates. 147. All figures are estimates. 148. All figures are estimates. 149. All figures are estimates. 150. All figures are estimates. 151. All figures are estimates. 152. All figures are estimates. 153. All figures are estimates. 154. All figures are estimates. 155. All figures are estimates. 156. All figures are estimates. 157. All figures are estimates. 158. All figures are estimates. 159. All figures are estimates. 160. All figures are estimates. 161. All figures are estimates. 162. All figures are estimates. 163. All figures are estimates. 164. All figures are estimates. 165. All figures are estimates. 166. All figures are estimates. 167. All figures are estimates. 168. All figures are estimates. 169. All figures are estimates. 170. All figures are estimates. 171. All figures are estimates. 172. All figures are estimates. 173. All figures are estimates. 174. All figures are estimates. 175. All figures are estimates. 176. All figures are estimates. 177. All figures are estimates. 178. All figures are estimates. 179. All figures are estimates. 180. All figures are estimates. 181. All figures are estimates. 182. All figures are estimates. 183. All figures are estimates. 184. All figures are estimates. 185. All figures are estimates. 186. All figures are estimates. 187. All figures are estimates. 188. All figures are estimates. 189. All figures are estimates. 190. All figures are estimates. 191. All figures are estimates. 192. All figures are estimates. 193. All figures are estimates. 194. All figures are estimates. 195. All figures are estimates. 196. All figures are estimates. 197. All figures are estimates. 198. All figures are estimates. 199. All figures are estimates. 200. All figures are estimates. 201. All figures are estimates. 202. All figures are estimates. 203. All figures are estimates. 204. All figures are estimates. 205. All figures are estimates. 206. All figures are estimates. 207. All figures are estimates. 208. All figures are estimates. 209. All figures are estimates. 210. All figures are estimates. 211. All figures are estimates. 212. All figures are estimates. 213. All figures are estimates. 214. All figures are estimates. 215. All figures are estimates. 216. All figures are estimates. 217. All figures are estimates. 218. All figures are estimates. 219. All figures are estimates. 220. All figures are estimates. 221. All figures are estimates. 222. All figures are estimates. 223. All figures are estimates. 224. All figures are estimates. 225. All figures are estimates. 226. All figures are estimates. 227. All figures are estimates. 228. All figures are estimates. 229. All figures are estimates. 230. All figures are estimates. 231. All figures are estimates. 232. All figures are estimates. 233. All figures are estimates. 234. All figures are estimates. 235. All figures are estimates. 236. All figures are estimates. 237. All figures are estimates. 238. All figures are estimates. 239. All figures are estimates. 240. All figures are estimates. 241. All figures are estimates. 242. All figures are estimates. 243. All figures are estimates. 244. All figures are estimates. 245. All figures are estimates. 246. All figures are estimates. 247. All figures are estimates. 248. All figures are estimates. 249. All figures are estimates. 250. All figures are estimates. 251. All figures are estimates. 252. All figures are estimates. 253. All figures are estimates. 254. All figures are estimates. 255. All figures are estimates. 256. All figures are estimates. 257. All figures are estimates. 258. All figures are estimates. 259. All figures are estimates. 260. All figures are estimates. 261. All figures are estimates. 262. All figures are estimates. 263. All figures are estimates. 264. All figures are estimates. 265. All figures are estimates. 266. All figures are estimates. 267. All figures are estimates. 268. All figures are estimates. 269. All figures are estimates. 270. All figures are estimates. 271. All figures are estimates. 272. All figures are estimates. 273. All figures are estimates. 274. All figures are estimates. 275. All figures are estimates. 276. All figures are estimates. 277. All figures are estimates. 278. All figures are estimates. 279. All figures are estimates. 280. All figures are estimates. 281. All figures are estimates. 282. All figures are estimates. 283. All figures are estimates. 284. All figures are estimates. 285. All figures are estimates. 286. All figures are estimates. 287. All figures are estimates. 288. All figures are estimates. 289. All figures are estimates. 290. All figures are estimates. 291. All figures are estimates. 292. All figures are estimates. 293. All figures are estimates. 294. All figures are estimates. 295. All figures are estimates. 296. All figures are estimates. 297. All figures are estimates. 298. All figures are estimates. 299. All figures are estimates. 300. All figures are estimates. 301. All figures are estimates. 302. All figures are estimates. 303. All figures are estimates. 304. All figures are estimates. 305. All figures are estimates. 306. All figures are estimates. 307. All figures are estimates. 308. All figures are estimates. 309. All figures are estimates. 310. All figures are estimates. 311. All figures are estimates. 312. All figures are estimates. 313. All figures are estimates. 314. All figures are estimates. 315. All figures are estimates. 316. All figures are estimates. 317. All figures are estimates. 318. All figures are estimates. 319. All figures are estimates. 320. All figures are estimates. 321. All figures are estimates. 322. All figures are estimates. 323. All figures are estimates. 324. All figures are estimates. 325. All figures are estimates. 326. All figures are estimates. 327. All figures are estimates. 328. All figures are estimates. 329. All figures are estimates. 330. All figures are estimates. 331. All figures are estimates. 332. All figures are estimates. 333. All figures are estimates. 334. All figures are estimates. 335. All figures are estimates. 336. All figures are estimates. 337. All figures are estimates. 338. All figures are estimates. 339. All figures are estimates. 340. All figures are estimates. 341. All figures are estimates. 342. All figures are estimates. 343. All figures are estimates. 344. All figures are estimates. 345. All figures are estimates. 346. All figures are estimates. 347. All figures are estimates. 348. All figures are estimates. 349. All figures are estimates. 350. All figures are estimates. 351. All figures are estimates. 352. All figures are estimates. 353. All figures are estimates. 354. All figures are estimates. 355. All figures are estimates. 356. All figures are estimates. 357. All figures are estimates. 358. All figures are estimates. 359. All figures are estimates. 360. All figures are estimates. 361. All figures are estimates. 362. All figures are estimates. 363. All figures are estimates. 364. All figures are estimates. 365. All figures are estimates. 366. All figures are estimates. 367. All figures are estimates. 368. All figures are estimates. 369. All figures are estimates. 370. All figures are estimates. 371. All figures are estimates. 372. All figures are estimates. 373. All figures are estimates. 374. All figures are estimates. 375. All figures are estimates. 376. All figures are estimates. 377. All figures are estimates. 378. All figures are estimates. 379. All figures are estimates. 380. All figures are estimates. 381. All figures are estimates. 382. All figures are estimates. 383. All figures are estimates. 384. All figures are estimates. 385. All figures are estimates. 386. All figures are estimates. 387. All figures are estimates. 388. All figures are estimates. 389. All figures are estimates. 390. All figures are estimates. 391. All figures are estimates. 392. All figures are estimates. 393. All figures are estimates. 394. All figures are estimates. 395. All figures are estimates. 396. All figures are estimates. 397. All figures are estimates. 398. All figures are estimates. 399. All figures are estimates. 400. All figures are estimates. 401. All figures are estimates. 402. All figures are estimates. 403. All figures are estimates. 404. All figures are estimates. 405. All figures are estimates. 406. All figures are estimates. 407. All figures are estimates. 408. All figures are estimates. 409. All figures are estimates. 410. All figures are estimates. 411. All figures are estimates. 412. All figures are estimates. 413. All figures are estimates. 414. All figures are estimates. 415. All figures are estimates. 416. All figures are estimates. 417. All figures are estimates. 418. All figures are estimates. 419. All figures are estimates. 420. All figures are estimates. 421. All figures are estimates. 422. All figures are estimates. 423. All figures are estimates. 424. All figures are estimates. 425. All figures are estimates. 426. All figures are estimates. 427. All figures are estimates. 428. All figures are estimates. 429. All figures are estimates. 430. All figures are estimates. 431. All figures are estimates. 432. All figures are estimates. 433. All figures are estimates. 434. All figures are estimates. 435. All figures are estimates. 436. All figures are estimates. 437. All figures are estimates. 438. All figures are estimates. 439. All figures are estimates. 440. All figures are estimates. 441. All figures are estimates. 442. All figures are estimates. 443. All figures are estimates. 444. All figures are estimates. 445. All figures are estimates. 446. All figures are estimates. 447. All figures are estimates. 448. All figures are estimates. 449. All figures are estimates. 450. All figures are estimates. 451. All figures are estimates. 452. All figures are estimates. 453. All figures are estimates. 454. All figures are estimates. 455. All figures are estimates. 456. All figures are estimates. 457. All figures are estimates. 458. All figures are estimates. 459. All figures are estimates. 460. All figures are estimates. 461. All figures are estimates. 462. All figures are estimates. 463. All figures are estimates. 464. All figures are estimates. 465. All figures are estimates. 466. All figures are estimates. 467. All figures are estimates. 468. All figures are estimates. 469. All figures are estimates. 470. All figures are estimates. 471. All figures are estimates. 472. All figures are estimates. 473. All figures are estimates. 474. All figures are estimates. 475. All figures are estimates. 476. All figures are estimates. 477. All figures are estimates. 478. All figures are estimates. 479. All figures are estimates. 480. All figures are estimates. 481. All figures are estimates. 482. All figures are estimates. 483. All figures are estimates. 484. All figures are estimates. 485. All figures are estimates. 486. All figures are estimates. 487. All figures are estimates. 488. All figures are estimates. 489. All figures are estimates. 490. All figures are estimates. 491. All figures are estimates. 492. All figures are estimates. 493. All figures are estimates. 494. All figures are estimates. 495. All figures are estimates. 496. All figures are estimates. 497. All figures are estimates. 498. All figures are estimates. 499. All figures are estimates. 500. All figures are estimates. 501. All figures are estimates. 502. All figures are estimates. 503. All figures are estimates. 504. All figures are estimates. 505. All figures are estimates. 506. All figures are estimates. 507. All figures are estimates. 508. All figures are estimates. 509. All figures are estimates. 510. All figures are estimates. 511. All figures are estimates. 512. All figures are estimates. 513. All figures are estimates. 514. All figures are estimates. 515. All figures are estimates. 516. All figures are estimates. 517. All figures are estimates. 518. All figures are estimates. 519. All figures are estimates. 520. All figures are estimates. 521. All figures are estimates. 522. All figures are estimates. 523. All figures are estimates. 524. All figures are estimates. 525. All figures are estimates. 526. All figures are estimates. 527. All figures are estimates. 528. All figures are estimates. 529. All figures are estimates. 530. All figures are estimates. 531. All figures are estimates. 532. All figures are estimates. 533. All figures are estimates. 534. All figures are estimates. 535. All figures are estimates. 536. All figures are estimates. 537. All figures are estimates. 538. All figures are estimates. 539. All figures are estimates. 540. All figures are estimates. 541. All figures are estimates. 542. All figures are estimates. 543. All figures are estimates. 544. All figures are estimates. 545. All figures are estimates. 546. All figures are estimates. 547. All figures are estimates. 548. All figures are estimates. 549. All figures are estimates. 550. All figures are estimates. 551. All figures are estimates. 552. All figures are estimates. 553. All figures are estimates. 554. All figures are estimates. 555. All figures are estimates. 556. All figures are estimates. 557. All figures are estimates. 558. All figures are estimates. 559. All figures are estimates. 560. All figures are estimates. 561. All figures are estimates. 562. All figures are estimates. 563. All figures are estimates. 564. All figures are estimates. 565. All figures are estimates. 566. All figures are estimates. 567. All figures are estimates. 568. All figures are estimates. 569. All figures are estimates. 570. All figures are estimates. 571. All figures are estimates. 572. All figures are estimates. 573. All figures are estimates. 574. All figures are estimates. 575. All figures are estimates. 576. All figures are estimates. 577. All figures are estimates. 578. All figures are estimates. 579. All figures are estimates. 580. All figures are estimates. 581. All figures are estimates. 582. All figures are estimates. 583. All figures are estimates. 584. All figures are estimates. 585. All figures are estimates. 586. All figures are estimates. 587. All figures are estimates. 588. All figures are estimates. 589. All figures are estimates. 590. All figures are estimates. 591. All figures are estimates. 592. All figures are estimates. 593. All figures are estimates. 594. All figures are estimates. 595. All figures are estimates. 596. All figures are estimates. 597. All figures are estimates. 598. All figures are estimates. 599. All figures are estimates. 600. All figures are estimates. 601. All figures are estimates. 602. All figures are estimates. 603. All figures are estimates. 604. All figures are estimates. 605. All figures are estimates. 606. All figures are estimates. 607. All figures are estimates. 608. All figures are estimates. 609. All figures are estimates. 610. All figures are estimates. 611. All figures are estimates. 612. All figures are estimates. 613. All figures are estimates. 614. All figures are estimates. 615. All figures are estimates. 616. All figures are estimates. 617. All figures are estimates. 618. All figures are estimates. 619. All figures are estimates. 620. All figures are estimates. 621. All figures are estimates. 622. All figures are estimates. 623. All figures are estimates. 624. All figures are estimates. 625. All figures are estimates. 626. All figures are estimates. 627. All figures are estimates. 628. All figures are estimates. 629. All figures are estimates. 630. All figures are estimates. 631. All figures are estimates. 632. All figures are estimates. 633. All figures are estimates. 634. All figures are estimates. 635. All figures are estimates. 636. All figures are estimates. 637. All figures are estimates. 638. All figures are estimates. 639. All figures are estimates. 640. All figures are estimates. 641. All figures are estimates. 642. All figures are estimates. 643. All figures are estimates. 644. All figures are estimates. 645. All figures are estimates. 646. All figures are estimates. 647. All figures are estimates. 648. All figures are estimates. 649. All figures are estimates. 650. All figures are estimates. 651. All figures are estimates. 652. All figures are estimates. 653. All figures are estimates. 654. All figures are estimates. 655. All figures are estimates. 656. All figures are estimates. 657. All figures are estimates. 658. All figures are estimates. 659. All figures are estimates. 660. All figures are estimates. 661. All figures are estimates. 662. All figures are estimates. 663. All figures are estimates. 664. All figures are estimates. 665. All figures are estimates. 666. All figures are estimates. 667. All figures are estimates. 668. All figures are estimates. 669. All figures are estimates. 670. All figures are estimates. 671. All figures are estimates. 672. All figures are estimates. 673. All figures are estimates. 674. All figures are estimates. 675. All figures are estimates. 676. All figures are estimates. 677. All figures are estimates. 678. All figures are estimates. 679. All figures are estimates. 680. All figures are estimates. 681. All figures are estimates. 682. All figures are estimates. 683. All figures are estimates. 684. All figures are estimates. 685. All figures are estimates. 686. All figures are estimates. 687. All figures are estimates. 688. All figures are estimates. 689. All figures are estimates. 690. All figures are estimates. 691. All figures are estimates. 692. All figures are estimates. 693. All figures are estimates. 694. All figures are estimates. 695. All figures are estimates. 696. All figures are estimates. 697. All figures are estimates. 698. All figures are estimates. 699. All figures are estimates. 700. All figures are estimates. 701. All figures are estimates. 702. All figures are estimates. 703. All figures are estimates. 704. All figures are estimates. 705. All figures are estimates. 706. All figures are estimates. 707. All figures are estimates. 708. All figures are estimates. 709. All figures are estimates. 710. All figures are estimates. 711. All figures are estimates. 712. All figures are estimates. 713. All figures are estimates. 714. All figures are estimates. 715. All figures are estimates. 716. All figures are estimates. 717. All figures are estimates. 718. All figures are estimates. 719. All figures are estimates. 720. All figures are estimates. 721. All figures are estimates. 722. All figures are estimates. 723. All figures are estimates. 724. All figures are estimates. 725. All figures are estimates. 726. All figures are estimates. 727. All figures are estimates. 728. All figures are estimates. 729. All figures are estimates. 730. All figures are estimates. 731. All figures are estimates. 732. All figures are estimates. 733. All figures are estimates. 734. All figures are estimates. 735. All figures are estimates. 736. All figures are estimates. 737. All figures are estimates. 738. All figures are estimates. 739. All figures are estimates. 740. All figures are estimates. 741. All figures are estimates. 742. All figures are estimates. 743. All figures are estimates. 744. All figures are estimates. 745. All figures are estimates. 746. All figures are estimates. 747. All figures are estimates. 748. All figures are estimates. 749. All figures are estimates. 750. All figures are estimates. 751. All figures are estimates. 752. All figures are estimates. 753. All figures are estimates. 754. All figures are estimates. 755. All figures are estimates. 756. All figures are estimates. 757. All figures are estimates. 758. All figures are estimates. 759. All figures are estimates. 760. All figures are estimates. 761. All figures are estimates. 762. All figures are estimates. 763. All figures are estimates. 764. All figures are estimates. 765. All figures are estimates. 766. All figures are estimates. 767. All figures are estimates. 768. All figures are estimates. 769. All figures are estimates. 770. All figures are estimates. 771. All figures are estimates. 772. All figures are estimates. 773. All figures are estimates. 774. All figures are estimates. 775. All figures are estimates. 776. All



## New-look Lords 'to hold UK together'

PETER MANDELSON last night re-entered the political fray with a passionate speech from the back benches on Lords reform (James Landale writes).

The former Trade and Industry Secretary said a reformed second chamber should be used as a "glue" to hold together the constitution in the wake of devolution. He also claimed to have been the minister behind the Government's plan for a royal commission.

In the second day of debate on the Government's Bill to expel hereditary peers, two former Tory Prime Ministers also made rare speeches, both warning of the Government's contempt for Parliament's check over the executive.

Sir Edward Heath broke ranks with his front bench and called for an elected Upper House. John Major warned of the Government's complete uncertainty of what to do once the hereditaries were gone.

Mr Mandelson suggested that the new Lords could contain representatives of the regions and could have improved links with Europe, but warned against giving it new powers.

## MP accuses Irvine of legal work 'cronyism'

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD IRVINE of Lairg was last night accused of further "cronyism" after it emerged that the bulk of legal work that he has commissioned as Lord Chancellor has gone to his former set of chambers.

Since May 1997 the Government has paid £36,687 to Lord Irvine's former Chambers, 11 King's Bench Walk, much more than to other barristers in other London chambers.

A parliamentary answer by Geoff Hoon, the Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department, shows that 24 sets of chambers have been used for work since Lord Irvine was appointed to the Cabinet.

Most of the firms have done small amounts of work but £31,331 has been paid to Temple Gardens, £20,180 to 29 Essex Street and £23,735 to Queen Elizabeth Building.

David Ruffley, the Tory MP for Bury St Edmunds who tabled the question to 11 King's Bench Walk was further evidence of "jobs for the boys".

"It is an amazing coincidence that Lord Irvine's former set of chambers gets more work for his department

than any other chambers in London," Mr Ruffley said. "It's a clear case of Irvine's cronies."

But the Lord Chancellor's department pointed out that the Treasury Junior, or "Treasury Devil", appointed 12 months ago, works at 11 King's Bench Walk so he would be bound to carry out most of the work.

The appointment of Philip Sales provoked protests at the time. The Treasury Devil is an independent barrister who is briefed and paid for advice or court appearances on behalf of government departments.

Last December Lord Falconer of Thoroton, then Solicitor-General, said the appointment had been made on merit. Mr Sales, 36, was a young appointment but highly rated and already tipped for stardom as "Lord Irvine's blue-eyed boy".

The Lord Chancellor's Department was unable to provide a breakdown as to how much work had been done by Mr Sales and how much had been done by other barristers at 11 King's Bench Walk, saying "we are confident that the figure for 11 King's Bench Walk reflects his role".



Tony Blair kissing a woman on the cheek during a walkabout with Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, outside their hotel in Bristol yesterday

## Flawed confessions of talkshow politician

TONY BLAIR wants to be the People's Prime Minister. As he told *This Morning* on Monday: "I think it is a good idea for people in my position to try to communicate with people directly and talk about things that really interest people."

The People's Prime Minister, as interpreted by those masters of daytime television, ranged from Mr Blair's relations with his children and whether he is bossy at home, to the future of the England football manager. But those who live by populism are liable to be tripped

up by it. The political strategy is clear. Working-class women who form the core viewers of such shows are among the strongest supporters of Labour. According to the MORI polls for *The Times*, some 62 per cent of them back Labour, against 43 per cent of middle-class women. (This is based on aggregate data for October to December of last year.) Moreover, support for Labour is highest among the key target groups of 18-to-24 and 25-to-34-year-old women, at 75 and 68 per cent respectively. Labour devoted considerable



Peter Riddell

ON POLITICS

efforts before the election to court these groups, a fifth or less of whom back the Tories. Party strategists found that they could not reach them by newspapers or current affairs television. Hence, the recourse to the time-green channels.

Contrary to the snuffy comment of the past two days, there is nothing wrong in trying to communicate more directly with the public. Despite our high level of newspaper readership compared with other countries, the fragmentation of the television market means that politicians can no longer assume that almost everybody will be watching the same news bulletins. This par-

ticularly applies to younger people and ethnic minorities.

The problem is less the medium than the message. The boundaries of political discourse, or at any rate what politicians talk about, are forever widening. They discuss everything from their families via hobbies, likes and dislikes in pop music (never classical) and sport (football is in, cricket is out) to their personal beliefs and faiths. This is supposed to make them folksy and popular. But it often jars.

Such populist gestures compromise politicians' frequent insistence that their personal and family lives should be private. They face the same dilemma as the Royal Family in allowing the media access to their personal lives on their own terms. But it is hard then to draw a line between acceptable and unacceptable disclosure.

Politicians and newspapers, let alone chatshow hosts,

have different roles. It is for politicians to argue, debate, propose and act over public issues for which they are elected. But it is not their job to pronounce on non-political matters. It is nothing whatsoever to do with Mr Blair, or Tony Banks for that matter, who serves as England coach however much they disapprove of his comments on this subject or that. The Football Association is not an arm of government.

The essence of a pluralist society is that the role of government is limited, and that means what ministers say and do. Harold Macmillan was right when he said that people should look to bishops, not to ministers, for a lead on moral issues. Politicians ought to say that sport, the arts and the like are nothing to do with them. The People's Prime Minister remains a politician, not a talkshow host or a national confessor.

## Blair puts jobs at top of Europe's agenda

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

TONY BLAIR declared yesterday that he would like to scrap any EU legislation that stands in the way of people finding jobs.

The Prime Minister launched his attack on Brussels red tape as he discussed Europe's rising unemployment with local businessmen and women in Bristol. "A lot of these different regulations that have come about from a slightly different era in Europe can be revisited in circumstances where we are developing a dif-

ferent type of single market in the European Union," he said. Mr Blair had travelled to Bristol with Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, who was paying a short visit to Britain. Both leaders took part in a question-and-answer session.

Mr Blair said beforehand that for "Britain to get the best out of the EU we must be players on the pitch, not commentators in the stands".

But his remarks focused on how unemployment could be combated. "Jobs and growth have got to be top of the agenda," he said. "There is no doubt that to tackle the unac-

ceptably high levels of unemployment in Europe, there has to be structural reform, accompanying a disciplined and strong euro."

But although Mr Blair said flexibility was required in the job market, he insisted this did not mean abandoning the social aspects of European employment law. He applauded Mr Kok for combining strong economic measures with social justice and compared it to his own Third Way. "It is the same idea, the belief that you do not pursue social justice at the expense of economic dynamism and strength."

## Labour moves to head off Morgan

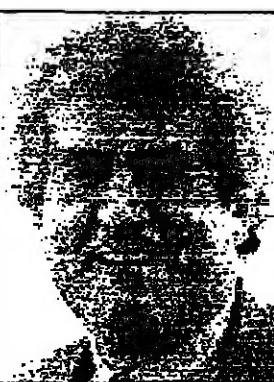
By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

LABOUR yesterday increased its efforts to cut short the momentum of Rhodri Morgan's campaign to become its Welsh party leader.

On his third visit to the Principality in three months, Tony Blair put his full weight behind Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary. But even if Mr Michael succeeds in securing the Welsh Labour leadership it will not guarantee him the post of First Secretary of the Welsh assembly.

Senior Labour figures are stepping up efforts to depict Mr Michael as the sound choice of all three sections of the party's electoral college in the race for leadership.

They believe Mr Michael will "win through" to voters when he meets Mr Morgan in a series of hustings meetings beginning on Friday. But a recent newspaper poll showed that nine out of ten voters backed Mr Morgan.



Morgan: nine out of ten backed him in recent poll

### No Gimmicks, No Games, Just simple savings on your phone bill.

• Pay monthly by Direct Debit or Pre-Pay

• No need to change your phone or phone number

What would you expect from the fastest growing telecoms carrier in the world?

Communications Week International

## PRIMUS

GLOBAL network GLOBAL savings GLOBAL sense

Call free on 0800 036 0007

All prices shown are inclusive of VAT, are in pence per minute, and have been rounded to the nearest penny. Calls are charged for the first twelve seconds; there are then in every second increments. Calls from payphones and mobile phones may be subject to a surcharge. Paying by Direct Debit is subject to status.

NATIONAL RATES	5p
AUSTRALIA	13p
CHINA	39p
AUSTRIA	15p
HONG KONG	15p
NEW ZEALAND	13p
ISRAEL	15p
JAPAN	16p
CHILE	38p
USA	7p
MAURITIUS	40p
SINGAPORE	18p
THAILAND	40p
SOUTH AFRICA	31p
MOROCCO	29p
TURKEY	23p

# Dixons

# sale

SAVE UP TO £150 ON TOP BRAND HI-FI

free serve

The UK's leading FREE internet service\*  
Pick up your FREE disc in-store, www.freeserve.net

### SONY PMCD 305

#### CD MICRO HI-FI

- Stylish Silver design.
- Logic cassette deck.
- Digital tuner with 30 presets.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £179.99

LOWEST EVER PRICE

SAVE £30

SALE PRICE

£149.99

### MINIDISC SYSTEMS

SAVE UP TO £100

#### aiwa XRM 2080

MINIDISC HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2000 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £289.99

SAVE £90

£199.99

#### JVC LD2000

COMPACT MINIDISC HI-FI WITH CD AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £399.99

SAVE £100

£299.99

#### aiwa XRM 85

MINIDISC HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £329.99

SAVE £70

£259.99

### MINI HI-FI

SAVE UP TO £150

#### aiwa XRM 2080

MINI HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £199.99

SAVE £30

£169.99

#### SONY MHC-775

MINI HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £219.99

SAVE £30

£189.99

#### Technics SC-BH 500

MINI HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £379.99

SAVE £20

£359.99

### FURTHER REDUCTIONS ON HI-FI

NEW THIS WEEK

#### MATSUI MHP800

MINI HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £54.97

SAVE £5

£49.97

#### KENWOOD KM2000

MINI HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £159.99

SAVE £40

£119.99

#### MISSION SPEAKERS

MINI HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £74.99

SAVE £15

£59.99

#### DAVID DENON DC30

MINI HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £299.97

SAVE £50

£249.97

#### aiwa XRM 2080

MINI HI-FI WITH CD, CASSETTE AND TUNER

- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.
- 2x 10 watts (RMS) power output.

Was £399.98

SAVE £80

£319.98

### WHARFEDALE

SAVE £150

£399.98

### PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN

Every week we compare prices in the national press so you KNOW you can't buy better! If you find you can, we guarantee to refund the difference.

# Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

0% INTEREST

29.5% APR

48 monthly payments of £170.00

WATCH OUT FOR OUR VOUCHER SPECIALS!

Look out for this special voucher savings on selected products throughout the advertisement. Simply take this voucher to any Dixons store to claim your special discount. One voucher saving per purchase. Some vouchers are an alternative to existing trade-in offers. Not for use with other offers. Branch use only. Discount using Code 4 Head Office offer. HURRY! These voucher prices valid only until Wednesday, 10th February 1999.

\*Dixons Price Check - If you find the same offer cheaper at a local store and notify us within 7 days of purchase, we'll refund the difference. The product must be new, complete and available for immediate delivery. Local call charges apply.



# Nanny spared jail for shaking baby to death

Judge lets Australian go home for treatment because of her low IQ, report Richard Duce and Christine Middap

THE nanny who shook a six-month-old baby to death was yesterday freed to return to Australia after a judge ruled that she needed help rather than punishment.

Louise Sullivan, 27, will fly back to Sydney for treatment for the mental deficiencies that contributed to the death of Caroline Jengen last April.

The baby's parents refused to comment on Sullivan's sentence of 15 months imprisonment, suspended for two years, but police said that they had not wanted to see another life destroyed.

Muriel and Marcel Jengen were at the Old Bailey yesterday when Mr Justice Mitchell said: "Nothing can restore that baby to her mother and father. I can but hope that having braved the ordeal of these proceedings they can understand why I have, with some reluctance, allowed Louise Sullivan to return to Australia."

Sullivan, who has an IQ of only 81 because of a thyroid deficiency, was embraced by her mother, Robyn, and by her barrister, Nadine Radford, QC, who had argued that imprisonment would probably cause a mental breakdown.

The Sullivan family left the court without comment. Karen Todner, Sullivan's solicitor, said: "We are pleased that the judge was able to show compassion to a girl who has never deliberately sought to harm a child which she cared for and loved."

Miss Todner, giving Sullivan's version of events leading up to the baby's death at home in Cricklewood, northwest London, said: "Louise believed that Caroline suffered a fit or convulsion. Louise had never experienced such a situation before. During her training in Australia Louise was taught



Sullivan leaving the Old Bailey yesterday

the 'shake and shout' method. Most regrettably, it was this course of action that ultimately resulted in Caroline's death. This is not a case that is about temper or loss of patience. ... This is the case of a girl who panicked and made a mistake with tragic consequences."

Sullivan, who had admitted manslaughter, is expected to return to Australia with her mother and father, Barry, as soon as her passport is returned by police.

She had been a nanny for five years. Passing sentence, the judge told her: "The sad truth can be stated simply: with that deficit in your mental capability, you were wholly unsuitable for the career you chose and the work you were employed to do. There was, in truth, a concealed but massive question mark of your ability to cope with the ups and downs and occasional crises that can arise in the early months of a young baby's life."

The judge said manslaughter would normally demand a prison sentence but Sullivan "had not the slightest insight" into her mental problems, which had not previously been diagnosed. The court was told that she was born without a thyroid gland, which left her of below average intellect and prone to anxiety and depression. "Terrible though the consequences of what you did were, your action was not intended or, by any stretch of the imagination, an act committed in temper or gratuitous violence," the judge told her.

Sullivan had completed a childcare course in New South Wales and two Australian Red Cross courses during which she learnt the "shake and shout" method. The prosecution said that she had shaken Caroline for five to ten seconds, making her brain wobble "like a jelly inside a mould". The child died four days later from brain damage.

After the case, Detective Chief Inspector David Brown said there could be no criticism of Mr Jengen, a Dutch-born banker, or Mrs Jengen, a French-born financial analyst. They had interviewed Sullivan twice, checked her references and spoken to former employers who said that they had been happy with her work.

He asked that the couple be left alone to grieve and said that it was not for police to comment on the sentence. "I will never forget Mr Jengen saying that they did not want to destroy Louise Sullivan's life," Mr Brown said.

Valerie Howarth, chief executive of the charity ChildLine, said: "We urge that systems be put in place thoroughly to screen and register anyone working or seeking work with children so that tragedies such as this can be prevented."



Peter the macaw took to the trees after his defenestration and remains at large

## Love flies out the window

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A HENPECKED macaw is on the loose after crashing through a window to escape the advances of his partner.

Peter, an eight-year-old South American green-winged macaw, had endured months of unwanted attention from Prudence at their owners' pet shop in Frome, Somerset.

On Monday, Prudence inched along the perch once too often. The colourful object of her affection, 3ft long with a 4in beak and weighing 7lb, shot "like a bullet" across the

aviary and out through a closed window.

Jayne and Angus Hart, the birds' owners, spent yesterday trying to recover the bird. Mrs Hart, 40, said: "I knew they weren't getting on very well and Prudence made him a bit nervous, but I didn't know it was this bad."

Emma Magnus, an animal behaviourist, said macaws were choosy lovers. "If they get companionship from their human owners they often don't need it from a female."



Prudence: deserted

## MPs call for checks to keep QCs up to scratch

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS who are made Queen's Counsel should undergo regular checks of their competence as part of a whole-sale modernisation of the silks system, MPs say.

More than 100 MPs have signed an early day motion seeking a debate on the QC system, which they say should be examined alongside the Government's other reforms of the legal profession.

Queen's Counsel make up about one tenth of the practising Bar, which numbers 8,000. They are considered to have reached a high level of ability and experience.

Andrew Dismore, a former solicitor who tabled the motion, said that there were no mechanisms to ensure that, once appointed, QCs kept up to scratch. "We are told that it is a kind of kitemark for the Bar, but if that is the case, there must be proper mechanisms for monitoring it," he said.

Mr Dismore, Labour MP for Hendon, said he was not waging a crusade against QCs. "Many of my best friends are QCs, as they say. And I have known some brilliant QCs ... but also some rather mediocre ones."

"At a time when we have radical and far-reaching reforms for modernising justice going through Parliament, we should take this opportunity to look also at the silks system and whether it is operating in the public interest."

Mr Dismore also suggested that the cost of the QC system could be carried by the Bar rather than paid for by the taxpayer. The selection procedure costs the Lord Chancellor's Department £60,000 to £80,000 a year.

The rank is highly sought-after, with more than 500 barristers applying to become a QC each year. One applicant last year had applied 25 times before without success.



Parrot's feather: named as a foreign menace

## Wetland war on alien invaders

BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

PARROT'S feather and fairy fern were yesterday declared a menace by the Environment Agency, which accused them and other foreign plants of clogging British waterways.

To mark World Wetlands Day, the agency declared Pevensey Levels in East Sussex a wetland of international importance and warned that its qualities were under threat from four alien species. They named the invaders as *Myriophyllum aquaticum* (parrot's feather), *Crassula helmsii* (Australian swamp stonecrop), *Azolla filiculoides* (fairy fern), and *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* (floating pennywort).

The agency, which says there are native alternatives, is asking all nurseries and garden centres to withdraw the four troublesome species from sale. "Now is a good time to think about planting pond plants, so we are urging pond owners and garden centres to be careful in their selections and avoid the nuisance species," Phil Griffiths, a spokesman, said.

Pevensey Levels is the largest and least fragmented area of lowland wet grass in south-east England, famous for dragonflies and freshwater molluscs. The foreign plants, having no natural controls, form dense carpets on the water surface, reducing the amount of oxygen and killing fish and invertebrates.

## BRITISH GAS GUARANTEES A DROP IN ELECTRICITY PRICES UNTIL

No Gimmicks.  
No Games.  
Just simple savings on your phone bill.

• Pay monthly by Direct Debit or Post-Pay  
• No need to change your phone or phone number

What would you expect from the lowest paying telecoms provider in the market?

Call free on 0800 634 111

When we supply you with electricity as well as gas, we'll guarantee cheaper electricity prices

than your local supplier until 2001. For further information call us on 0845 604 2001.

For our gas customers taking electricity from us on a domestic credit meter. Terms and conditions apply.

KEEPING PRICES ON LOW. **British Gas** Home Energy

05/12/99



# Olympic city's missing sword tale cuts no ice

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

MYSTERY surrounds the whereabouts of a traditional short sword which Japanese officials say they gave to Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), eight years ago and which appears to have vanished.

On Monday, the IOC said that neither it nor Señor Samaranch has any record or recollection of receiving a Japanese sword from the city of Nagano, which hosted the 1998 Winter Olympics.

However, the governor of Nagano prefecture maintains that the sword, made by a local craftsman, was presented to Señor Samaranch when he visited Nagano, northwest of Tokyo, in May 1991. The city was chosen to host the Games in June that year.

According to Governor Goro Yoshimura, who was

chairman of the bid committee, the sword was "donated" by the sword-maker himself, adding "there may have been an intermediary". But he refused to reveal the identity of either the craftsman or the intermediary, saying the sword-maker wanted no publicity.

In fact, the gift remained a secret until a Japanese newspaper made allegations last month that Nagano's bidding committee violated the IOC code of ethics by presenting Señor Samaranch with a valuable sword and kimono.

The governor's curious version of events — that a publicity-shy swordsmith presented the weapon at his own expense — has failed to convince a sceptical public. It is widely seen as an attempt to deflect anger about the misuse of taxpayers' money during Nagano's drive to host the Olympics.

Since the controversy over the Salt Lake City Olympics erupted, details have emerged of first-class air fares, all-expenses-paid stays at resorts, entertainment by geishas, and other luxuries lavished on visiting IOC members by Nagano. A Nagano citizens' group says it plans to take the Games' organisers to court for misuse of public money.

But potentially the most embarrassing perk is the sword, which was given to Señor Samaranch, according to the governor, but which Señor Samaranch cannot recall receiving.

There is much that is puzzling about the episode. No photograph is known to exist of a presentation ceremony — a curious omission in a country of obsessive shunobugs.

However, it has been confirmed that the necessary procedures for exporting the



Juan Antonio Samaranch in Lausanne, Switzerland, yesterday for a conference on doping. He has denied all knowledge of the Japanese sword

sword were completed, meaning that it left the country. Under Japanese law, guns and swords must be registered.

Nagano prefectural officials refused to say in whose name the sword was registered, citing "a need to safeguard

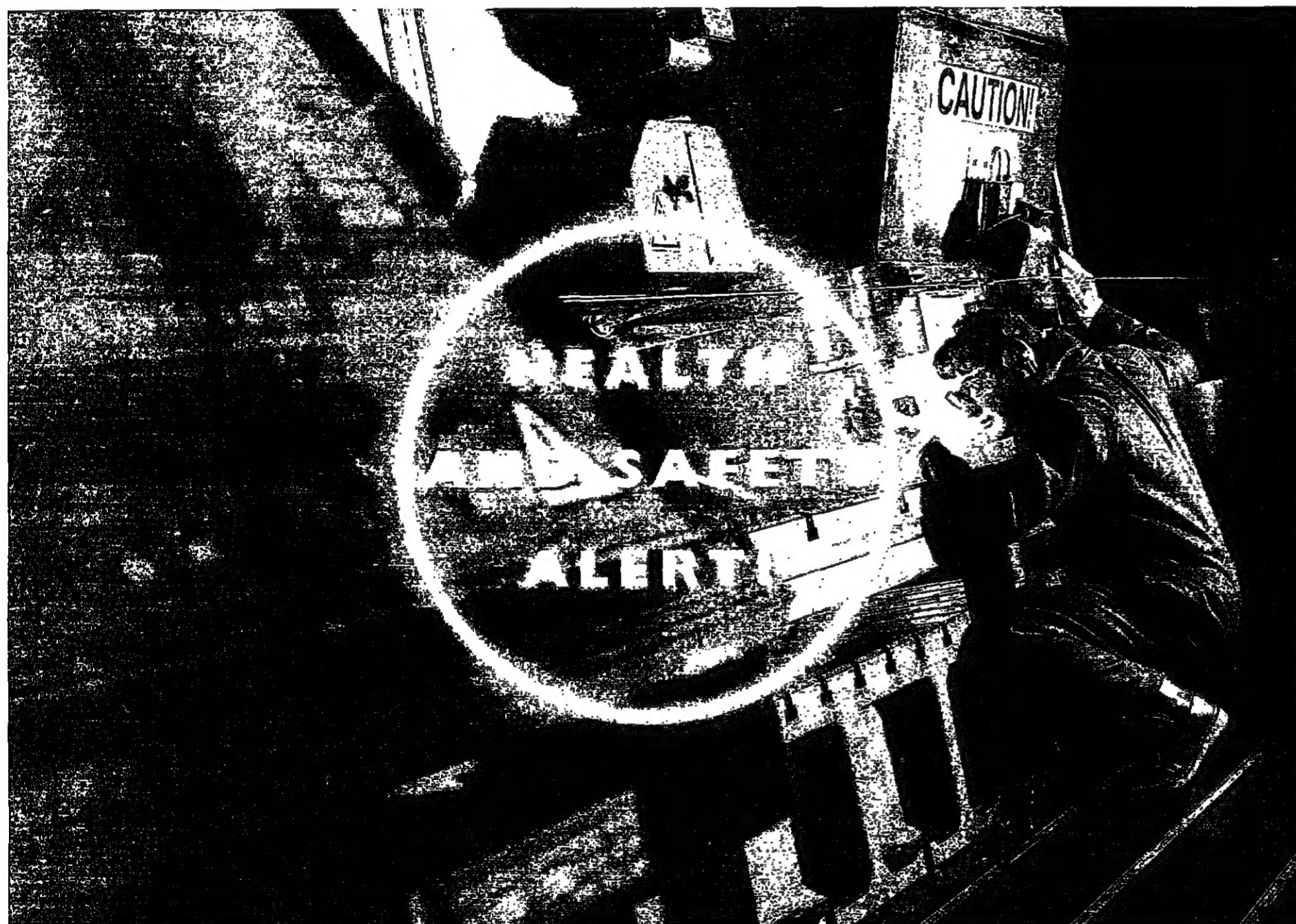
privacy". According to a local businessman, Soichiro Yoshida, who played a key role in Nagano's Olympic bid, the weapon is a traditional short sword — originally designed for hand-to-hand combat and piercing a foe's armour.

The Japanese Olympic Committee was yesterday preparing to respond to an IOC request for any evidence of wrongdoing in Nagano's successful bid. But it is unlikely to yield anything negative: city incinerators took care of that.

An official of the bidding committee last month admitted that he ordered 90 accounting books, detailing how much was spent on winning and dining IOC officials, to be burnt in 1992 because they carried "secret information".

Explaining this destruction of potentially damning evidence, Nagano's Mayor, Tsukuru Tsukada, blithely told reporters that it was "the Japanese way of doing things".

Banks appeal, page 37



In the year 2000

safeguards

will fail

Millennium Bug problems are not confined to computers.

You have a responsibility to protect staff by assessing all Health and Safety risks and taking action.

Anything with an embedded chip could fail and lead to danger.

That can mean everything from lifting equipment to CNC machines.

Any failure could result in injury or death. Time is short.

Guidance from the Health and Safety Executive can help to keep your business running.

Call freephone 08007 31 12 99 for your FREE Y2K Risk Assessment Guide today.



Please send me my FREE copy of HSE's Y2K Risk Assessment Guide.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ POSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL NO: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND TO: HSE BOOKS, PO BOX 1999, SUDBURY, SUFFOLK, CO10 6FS.

HSE Home Page on the World Wide Web: <http://www.open.gov.uk/hsehome.htm>

## Woman on trial in Paris after 50 girls circumcised

MAMA GREOU, a French woman of Malian origin, went on trial in Paris yesterday for allegedly circumcising about 50 girls in the biggest case of its kind to come before a French court.

She was accompanied into the defendants' box by 27 of the girls' parents in the first hearing in France to be triggered by a victim's complaint.

Hawa Gréou, 52, known among France's 40,000-strong Malian community as Mama Gréou, faces up to 20 years in jail if found guilty after a hearing expected to last two weeks.

Human rights organisations are calling for a dissuasive sentence in the hope of stamping out the genital mutilation practised by a small minority of the several million people of African origin living in France.

The defence does not contest the facts, but says that French justice is ill-equipped to tackle an ancient African custom and should treat her with leniency.

The defendant was arrested after a tip-off from Mariatou Koita, 23, a law student in Paris of Malian origin, who denounced her for allegedly circumcising two of her sisters five years ago. Mlle Koita claims she suffered at Mama Gréou's hands in 1983, when she was eight.

"There were several women," she told magistrates. "Two held me down, one held my legs, the other my arms. The third circumcised me. I shouted and asked my mother why she said nothing. My mother tried."



Koita: claims suffering at hands of Gréou

Case pits rights campaigners against ancient custom, writes Adam Sage

Detectives placed a listening device on the defendant's telephone and found what they say is evidence of about 50 circumcisions carried out over the past five years. The French Commission for the Abolition of Genital Mutilation says the true figure is nearer 100 operations.

The prosecution says that Mama Gréou knew female circumcision had been a crime in France since 1984 and took precautions to cover her tracks. She often performed her back-street surgery in holiday periods, when nobody would hear the girls' screams.

Police officers found the unsterilised razors they say she used in the operations at her Paris flat, as well as an instrument made of two metal spikes fixed to a plastic tube. In 1994, she was given a suspended sentence after a court convicted her of carrying out several dozen circumcisions.

Police say the 27 parents, who are being charged as accomplices, all knew that the operations to remove the clitoris from their daughters were illegal in France. That point is important because defendants have claimed to be ignorant of the law in previous genital mutilation hearings in France.

Mama Gréou's lawyer, Jean Chavais, said: "Punishment is not as effective as education and prevention. I do not say circumcision is necessary, but if we want to fight it, we must use means other than the courts. It takes a long time to change habits."

But Linda Weil-Curiel, of the Commission for the Abolition of Genital Mutilation, called for a prison sentence. "Jail marks people's minds. That will enable families to use the risk of being sent to prison as a way of turning away from this custom."

Female circumcision is performed mainly, although not solely, by Muslims in the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

## Opposition leader jailed for speaking

FROM REUTERS IN SINGAPORE

A SINGAPORE opposition politician chose seven days in jail rather than pay a fine yesterday after he was found guilty of making speeches in public without a permit in a trial that sparked rare debate in the city-state.

Chee Soon Juan, 36, was found guilty of breaking strict public speaking laws. A district judge, See Kee Oon, fined him \$81,400 (£518), with imprisonment if he failed to pay.

Mr Chee said: "I feel that I have done absolutely nothing wrong. I have to serve time in prison for exercising my constitutional rights."

He was found guilty of an

offence under the Public Entertainments Act — which requires permits for public speaking — after he gave a speech on December 29 in Singapore's central business district without a licence.

His counsel, J.B. Jayaratnam, said that the Act was unconstitutional, but the judge disagreed.

Mr Chee, the Singapore Democratic Party leader, has had several high-profile clashes with the law. He says the public speaking permit system, censorship laws and state media control are designed to make it hard for the Opposition to be heard.

Belgrade spot as n agree to

THE UPGRADES, LOWER PRICES.

NEW SYSTEM £799

0800

BIG ABOUT YOU



# Belgrade on the spot as rebels agree to talks

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) indicated yesterday that it would attend the peace conference planned to start in Rambouillet on Saturday, putting pressure on Belgrade to follow suit.

The first positive sign that the KLA will send delegates to Rambouillet, outside Paris, came after a meeting of the organisation's general staff at a secret base in Kosovo, the disaffected province of Serbia. The negotiators are expected to be named today.

Jacup Krasniqi, a KLA spokesman, said: "We are definitely going to the talks with our proposals."

He said that the KLA would insist on leading the ethnic Albanian delegation because "no one has the right to decide the future of Kosovo other than those who fight and make sacrifices for Kosovo".

The response from President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, is not expected until tomorrow or Friday, leaving it to the last moment.

Diplomatic sources said that the Serbian and Yugoslav parliaments had to be consulted before any announcement could be made by the Government in Belgrade.

Provided the KLA's decision is confirmed, it will mean that all sections of the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo will be represented at the talks at the chateau, Ibrahim Rugova, the political leader of the moderate ethnic Albanians, has confirmed that he will be represented.

Belgrade has been warned that, if it is the only party that refuses to attend the peace talks, it will face possible airstrikes.

James Rubin, the US State Department spokesman, said that Bel-

grade would be making a "big, big mistake" by doubting Nato's determination to use force if it failed to send a negotiating team.

The KLA made clear that it would not give up its aim of full independence for Kosovo and that its negotiators would be arguing for a referendum on independence at the end of the three-year interim period proposed by Christopher Hill, the US envoy, whose plan for the future of the Yugoslav province will form the basis of the peace talks.

In the latest draft of the Hill plan, there are also elements that are unlikely to find favour with Mr Milosevic. According to the draft, the head of the Kosovo verification

team, the American envoy William Walker, would have authority over both Belgrade and the ethnic Albanian leaders in ensuring the proper implementation of all elements of the peace settlement.

Sources at the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which is responsible for the verification mission in Kosovo, said it was envisaged that the head of the OSCE team in the province would have similar powers to those of Carlos Westendorp, the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who is responsible for implementing the civilian aspects of the Dayton peace accord.

Under the draft plan, Mr Walker would be able to overrule Belgrade if there was a dispute over implementing any peace settlement, effectively removing Mr Milosevic's authority over the province.

However, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said the peace plan would leave foreign and defence matters, as well as financial strategy, to Belgrade and sovereignty of the province would not be affected.

The OSCE verification team has 1,070 members operating in Kosovo. That will rise to 1,600 and will reach the originally proposed 2,000 level once a peace settlement is approved. The final 400 verifiers will be legal experts and police officers.

News of the KLA's decision to go to Rambouillet emerged after earlier statements had indicated a more negative approach. Adem Demaci, the political representative of the KLA, said that he had advised against going to Rambouillet.

## Serbs give back massacre dead

Pristina: Serbian authorities in Kosovo yesterday released the bodies of more than 40 victims of an alleged massacre of ethnic Albanians by Serb security forces last month after completing post-mortem examinations.

The official Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency quoted a local judge, Danica Marinkovic, as saying the victims' families were free to take the bodies for burial in their village of Racak, southwest of the provincial capital Pristina.

But family members said they wanted the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe to help them with the task because they feared harassment by the Serbs. (Reuters)



A woman waits at Pristina mortuary to collect the body of her son, killed in Racak last month

## Russia's teenagers pay price of the sex revolution

FROM ALICE LAGNADO IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN girls are having sex earlier as sex education in schools is abandoned and sexually transmitted diseases are increasing.

The percentage of girls under 16 who have had sex doubled from 16 per cent in 1993 to about 33 per cent in 1995, according to a new study by the Sociological Centre of the Russian Academy of Education.

Thirty-six per cent of boys under 16 had sex in 1993, and 44 per cent in 1995.

Cases of syphilis have also increased dramatically. The number of teenagers between 15 and 17 who contracted it went up 70-fold between 1990 and 1996, from 5.7 per 100,000 to 399.9, the study found.

The Moscow Times reported that schools, which began to teach sex education for the first time in the 1990s, stopped in 1997 after parents complained about explicit questionnaires given to children.

Although in private Russians are far more open than the British about sex, public education on the subject has barely started. Pornography, which in Soviet times was only found on the black market, is everywhere. Parents and schools have failed to react to this change, leaving children to find out about sex through friends, magazines and televised porn films. Abortion remains the most popular method of contraception.

Médecins Sans Frontières has launched a media campaign to persuade Russian teenagers to use condoms. Ilona van de Braak, the campaign coordinator, said that "young people are well informed, but HIV [the Aids-related virus] is seen as so remote that they take no preventive measures".

Organisers are hoping that Yuri Luzhkov, Moscow's Mayor, who backs the Orthodox Church stance against sex education, will not object. During a similar campaign last year, he ordered posters to be torn down and banned educational advertisements on a government-backed television channel.

## Armless man disrupts his trial for bombings

FROM NIGEL GLASS IN VIENNA



Franz Fuchs shouts slogans during his trial yesterday

AN ARMLESS man with a Hitler-style moustache and haircut repeatedly interrupted the first day of his trial in Graz, Austria, yesterday for the murder of four Gypsies, during a series of bombings, by shouting xenophobic slogans.

As soon as Franz Fuchs, 49, was

brought into the dock, he shouted: "Long live the Bavarian Liberation Army."

The unemployed instrument technician went on to attack foreigners and "the Zionist persecution of the German people". The judge, Heinz Fuhmann, repeatedly ordered Herr Fuchs to be returned to the cells, and much of the proceedings were conducted in his absence.

The prosecution said that a string of bomb attacks, carried out in Austria between 1993 and 1996 and purported to be in the name of the Bavarian Liberation Army, was carried out solely by Herr Fuchs.

Police claimed that he had confessed to the offences, but Herr Fuchs's lawyers said that he was acting as part of a group.

The four Gypsies lost their lives

when a shrapnel bomb was detonated near their home in the eastern Austrian province of Burgenland. In another attack by letter-bomb, Helmut Zilk, a former Mayor of Vienna and supporter of minority rights, lost his hand.

Herr Fuchs lost his own arms when an explosive device, which he was carrying at the time of his arrest, detonated.

# SALE

## FREE UPGRADES, LOWER PRICES.

We never stand still at Tiny! Even in our Big Sale we bring you improved specifications and system upgrades. And we've even reduced our sale prices on selected systems. You can't lose!

## IT'S BIGGER THAN EVER!

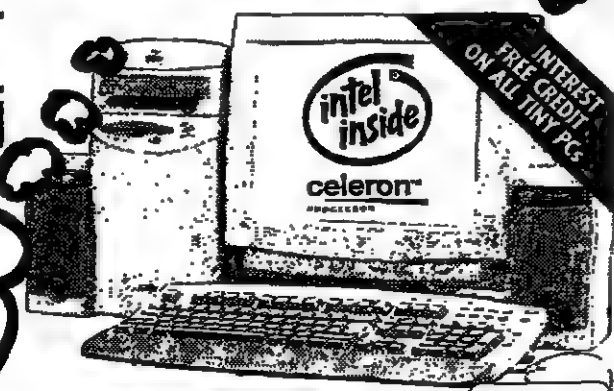
### Home Premium System 400

NOTHING TO PAY, NOT EVEN A DEPOSIT, UNTIL THE YEAR 2000

Intel® Celeron® Processor 400MHz  
64MB Fast SD RAM  
4.3GB Hard Disk Drive  
15" VGA 28 Colour Monitor  
JMB Graphics Card  
32" Speed Max CD ROM Drive  
Voice Fax Modem  
FREE Trial Internet Access  
Windows 98  
Hewlett Packard 420 Colour Printer  
FREE Flatbed Colour Scanner  
Over £730 of Microsoft and other Software.

Free Microsoft® Windows® 98 Interactive Tutorial Software

NEW SYSTEM  
£799  
£938



FREE CREDIT ON ALL IN PC



87 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, MOST OPEN 10-6 PM (MON-SAT)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A FREE SALE CATALOGUE, FREEPHONE  
**0800 731 9372**  
**TINY**  
TINY COMPUTERS LIMITED, REDHILL BUSINESS PARK, BONEHURST ROAD, SALFORD, REDHILL, SURREY RH1 5YB, FAX 01703 822 514. WWW.TINY.CO.UK

## THINK BIG ABOUT YOUR PC. THINK TINY

0% NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL THE YEAR 2000 - NOT EVEN A DEPOSIT 26.9% APR

# "SENSATIONAL"

"This is the only way to describe this great offer from Quantex"  
Who else can match this incredible graphics power?  
Who else can match this incredible price?

The awesome power of the latest Voodoo2 3Dfx Graphics accelerator with 12 Mbyte has been combined with the very latest Voodoo II 3Dfx BANSHEE Graphics Card giving you the fastest possible system.

**QP6/3DFX: £899+VAT £1,056.33 INC vat**

### System Specifications

- Intel® Pentium® II Processor 350MHz
- Intel SE440BX AGP Set
- 3rd Generation DVD not the slower 2nd
- 128Mbyte Ultra Fast Memory
- 17" Digital Colour Monitor
- Voodoo2 Banshee 16MB Graphics Card
- Soundblaster AudioPCI Sound Card
- Non-Integrated Graphics or Sound
- Microsoft Windows 98, Corel Office Suite 8
- 8.4 Gbyte Hard Disk Drive
- Year 2000 and 9999 Compliant
- \*Upgraded from Standard specification

Shown with optional keyboard  
Call for special options:  
Special Bonus Pack, Monitors, Warranties and Super Fast BT Highway Conversions, Express Delivery

### FREE offers must end soon

- Free: V90: 56Kbps Fax/Modem w/speakerphone
- Free: Activision Game Pack including:
- Free: Battlezone, Heavy Gear
- Free: Interstate 76, NitroPack
- Free: 128Mbyte upgrade from Standard 64Mbyte
- Free: Backup CD's and Quantex recovery software
- Free: Voodoo2 3Dfx w/12MB Graphics Accelerator
- Free: Mains Powered Altac Lancing Speakers
- Free: Interest Free Credit Option
- Free: Award winning Pipex Dial Internet 1 Month Trial
- Free: Upgrade to 8.4Gbyte Drive from Standard 6.4
- Free: Lifetime Technical Support 24 Hours Per Day...

EVERYDAY!

### 0% Finance option

9999 and Year 2000 Compliant  
Our systems are hardware compliant using four digit codes to record the year.



POWERED BY INTEL...  
...DELIVERED BY QUANTEX  
GOOD CHOICE.

www.qtx.co.uk  
www.highway.bt.com To Order: **01438 224444** Fax: 01438 224224

© 1999 Quantex, all rights reserved. Quantex is a registered trademark of Quantex. Intel, Pentium, and Celeron are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, and Office are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Corel, Office Suite 8, and Pipex are registered trademarks of Corel Corporation. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.



## WORLD IN BRIEF

## Police in Pakistan attack journalists

Islamabad: Several people were hurt yesterday when police attacked hundreds of journalists and press workers protesting against a crackdown on the press that threatens to close Pakistan's leading newspapers (Zahid Hussain writes). A senior woman journalist received serious head injuries when she was hit by a baton. The largest Urdu and English-language newspapers, the *Jang* and *News on Tuesday*, were restricted to two-page editions as the Government blocked their newsprint supply and froze their bank accounts.

The *Jang* group said that it was being victimised because it refused to comply with a government demand that it should dismiss 16 senior journalists and stop printing corruption stories about Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and his family.

## Reshuffle by Yeltsin

Moscow: President Yeltsin reshuffled his executive office yesterday, three days after leaving hospital where he was treated for a bleeding ulcer (Alice Lagnado writes). On an unexpected visit to the Kremlin, Mr Yeltsin dismissed four of his six advisers, leaving only his daughter, Tatyana Dyachenko, and Mikhail Zurabov. He also made Aleksei Ogarev, a presidential Deputy Chief of Staff responsible for defence, into Deputy Secretary of the Security Council where he will fulfil similar duties, and made Sergei Prihodko, another Deputy Chief of Staff, head of the executive office's foreign policy department.

## Bissau battle kills 35

Lisbon: A fierce battle between government forces and rebels fighting for control of Guinea-Bissau's capital left dozens dead and more than 200 wounded, aid workers said. Wagdi Othman, spokesman for the United Nations World Food Programme, said hospital sources in Bissau had reported counting at least 35 dead and about 220 wounded, mostly civilians. The fighting appeared to mark the disintegration of a November peace accord that had halted a five-month civil war. (AP)

## US jets in new raids

Washington: American aircraft bombed and apparently destroyed a newly-established anti-aircraft missile site in southern Iraq that could have threatened Gulf shipping, the Pentagon said. Officials said that four jets from the carrier *USS Carl Vinson* in the Gulf attacked the Russian-made missile battery. US jets also made at least four bombing strikes against anti-aircraft sites in the northern no-fly zone. (Reuters)

## Angolan air crash

Luanda: An Antonov-12 cargo plane, above, crashed into a shanty town in the Angolan capital's suburbs, killing at least 28 people. The plane, owned by a private Angolan company, SavanAir, was returning to Luanda airport 30 minutes after taking off because of a faulty engine. Witnesses said one of the engines was on fire as the plane went down. The aircraft exploded on impact and demolished five houses. (AP)

## Love on home front

Copenhagen: Peter Larsen, 24, married Anna Margrethe Soerensen, 93, to keep her from being put in a hospice by her family, according to Danish reports. Mr Larsen met her when he was a home-help in Gentofte, north of the capital. "A social worker came to persuade me to divorce, saying my husband was interested only in my house," Mrs Larsen said, but added: "I am not a rich widow. Ours is a love marriage." (AFP)

## President's pal in spotlight

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH  
IN WASHINGTON

AFTER failing to uncover any new bombshells during their interrogation of Monica Lewinsky, prosecutors in the impeachment trial of President Clinton yesterday turned their attention to his confidant, Vernon Jordan.

As Mr Jordan, a lawyer and golfing partner of Mr Clinton, was giving his deposition, senators were reviewing in private the videotape of Ms Lewinsky's testimony.

Those who were in the Washington hotel suite as she was questioned on Monday kept a public silence about what she said.

But news leaked out that she had added almost nothing new to the accounts she had given on 22 other occasions when she testified under oath about her relationship with Mr Clinton.

The former White House trainee was said to have given a polished, unfurnished performance as she was questioned for four hours by Ed Bryant, a House of Representatives trial manager.

It appeared that she had been extremely well prepared by her team of lawyers. But while she did not provide anything new to damn Mr Clinton, she stuck with testimony that is already central to the charges of perjury and obstruction of justice against the President.

She maintained that she and Mr Clinton indulged in sexual conduct that he has denied under oath and repeated an account of a series of events that prosecutors insist shows that Mr Clinton was obstructing justice by trying to conceal his affair.

Nevertheless, the prosecution will be disappointed that she did not deviate from her story that she was never offered a job to buy her silence and that she was never asked to lie about the affair.

Her confidence was displayed when, in the middle of defence objections about his line of questioning, Mr Bryant retracted a question himself. "See, I'm making my own objections," he said.

"Sustained!" said Ms Lewinsky, to peals of laughter.

White House lawyers were apparently so untoubled by the way the questioning went that they asked no questions of their own. Instead, Nicole Seligman, one of Mr Clinton's personal lawyers, read a one-



Vernon Jordan, President Clinton's long-time confidant and golf partner, leaving his Washington home yesterday on his way to be questioned

line statement which regretted "on behalf of the President" the ordeal that she had endured. Ms Lewinsky said thank you to Ms Seligman, but gave no further reaction.

Mr Jordan, who had testified five times before the Grand Jury, was expected to be questioned intensively about discrepancies between his testimony and that of Ms Lewinsky. He is considered the key player in the efforts that were made to help find Ms Lewinsky a job.

He denies he helped her, but admits he did so to keep her quiet. Prosecutors claim he stepped up his efforts once Ms Lewinsky was called to testify in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case about the nature of her relationship with Mr Clinton.

The prosecution was under-

stood to be particularly keen to ask Mr Jordan why Ms Lewinsky said he reviewed her affidavit for the Jones case but he denied this; why she said he told her to destroy drafts of notes to Mr Clinton, but he said he had never had breakfast with Ms Lewinsky but she supplied details of what they ate; why he had no memory of seeing gifts from Mr Clinton to Ms Lewinsky that she says she showed him.

Mr Jordan's interrogator was Asa Hutchinson, the Arkansas representative and former attorney who prosecuted Mr Clinton's brother, Roger, for cocaine possession and is widely regarded as the most effective of the House prosecutors in the trial so far.

Mr Jordan, however, famous for his slick, assured manner, appeared totally unfazed as he entered the Senate. Wearing a hat with a feather in the band, he smiled and greeted reporters cheerfully as he went in and headed for a secure, soundproofed room normally used for classified briefings.

Today prosecutors and White House lawyers will question Sidney Blumenthal, a senior presidential aide.

Tomorrow the 100 Senators will resume the trial and decide whether to air the tapes of the three depositions publicly.

Meanwhile, momentum continues to grow for a "finding of facts" motion which could conclude the trial with a simple majority vote on the wrongs Mr Clinton has committed without removing him from office. Votes on other motions last week indicated that

the required two thirds of the Senate is not in favour of convicting him on the articles of impeachment.

Challenger bows out: Dick Gephardt, leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives, is expected to announce today that he will not challenge Vice-President Al Gore for the party's nomination for President in 2000. He will concentrate instead on trying to retake the House from Republicans and becoming the new Speaker.

Mr Gephardt has been credited with helping the White House and Democratic candidates to shape the 1998 election as a referendum on the Republicans' handling of the Lewinsky investigation. Democrats picked up five seats in the House, narrowing the Republicans already thin lead.

## Clinton blush is acne flush

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

WAS that a blush creeping across President Clinton's face as Monica Lewinsky gave her deposition in his impeachment trial? Or was he just flushed under pressure? A red-faced Mr Clinton appeared in public on Monday as his former paramour was being questioned about their relationship. But the cause was adult acne rather than embarrassment.

Mr Clinton suffers outbreaks of rosacea, a skin condition that leaves him with a face like a beetroot. The cause is often stress. "If someone has rosacea, they always have it, so when they get excited or upset or they have their emotions upset, it'll flare up," said Melvin Elson, a dermatologist.

To be fair to Mr Clinton, it may have been something he consumed. Rosacea can be brought on by anything that raises blood pressure, such as spicy food or alcohol. Mr Clinton hardly ever touches liquor but he is partial to hot Southern cuisine.

Americans will sympathise with their President. An estimated 13 million of them are fellow sufferers.



Monica Lewinsky's picture adorns wrappers of chocolate bars with different fillings which went on sale this week in Tbilisi, the capital of the Georgian Republic

## Reform pledge by Venezuela's 'Mr Clean'

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN CARACAS

HUGO CHAVEZ, 44, who in 1992 led a failed coup in Venezuela, was sworn in yesterday as President.

He promised to clean up the country's corruption-riddled system, to uphold democracy and pull Venezuelans from the clutches of "cronism".

The former paratrooper won an overwhelming majority in elections in November after he appeared throughout the country wearing military uniforms and a red beret and promising that he would "fry" corrupt politicians and judges, and would "take from the rich to give to the poor."

But he has changed his look and his oratory. He appeared in a smart suit at his swearing-in in Caracas yesterday and received a standing ovation from 18 Latin American heads of state who attended.

Reassuring foreign investors and the United States, which buys much of its petroleum from Venezuela, Señor Chavez said that his administration would continue with free-market reforms and with efforts to repay debts and reduce public spending.

His populist speeches initially made investors jittery, but markets have calmed down and now see Señor Chavez as a reforming leader.

Economists are pleased to see that he is following in the steps of President Menem of Argentina, who also came to power on populist promises but soon became a free-market leader.

"We want to make Venezuela into a forward-looking, thriving country and take it out of its backward, bankrupt state," the new President said. "We want to attract foreign investment and will show the world that our country is a safe place for investment."

Señor Chavez takes over from Rafael Caldera, 83, who had been slow in implementing reforms and unable to lift his country from the recession brought on by the oil price fall.

The new President's popular appeal comes because he is seen as a catalyst for change. Although jailed briefly for the bloody coup which he led in 1992 and associated with an authoritarian style of leadership, Venezuelans see him as an up-right "Mr Clean" politician.

## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Annual Summer Opening  
of the State Rooms

The Official residence of The Queen  
will be open to visitors from  
6th August - 3rd October 1999

On show are the magnificent State Rooms,  
which are used by The Royal Family to  
receive and entertain guests on State,  
ceremonial and Official occasions and which  
are furnished with some of the finest pictures  
and works of art in the world.

Admission tickets are available in advance  
by telephoning:

0171 321 2233

Major credit cards accepted  
(Surcharge of 50p applies per transaction)

or by writing to The Visitor Office (TT),  
Buckingham Palace, London, SW1A 1AA

# BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!

<p><b>SAVE UP TO £1.00</b></p> <p><b>Ginkgo Biloba 2000mg - High Potency</b></p> <p>Each tablet contains a guaranteed level of 'extra' ginkgo, tested (HPLC/MS) in the form of a pure extract. Compare our product to those first customers did. It's the difference between 2000mg of Ginkgo (in one tablet) and 1000mg (in two tablets). Our price is much better value.</p> <p><b>OUR PRICE £5.90 for 30 tablets</b> Buy one get one free</p>	<p><b>SAVE UP TO £4.00</b></p> <p><b>Selenium 200mcg plus A.C.E. - Yeast Free</b></p> <p>We believe our Selenium Plus A.C.E. is hard to beat. You'll find few if any, other companies offer a formula containing 200mcg of Selenium (in one tablet) more are just 100mcg. And our Selenium Plus A.C.E. is a potent antioxidant, with slightly more per tablet than many high street equivalents.</p> <p><b>OUR PRICE £5.90 for 60 tablets</b> Buy one get one free</p>	<p><b>SAVE UP TO £50.00</b></p> <p><b>Glucosamine 600mg - High Strength</b></p> <p>Each tablet contains 600mg of pure Glucosamine Sulfate without any 'bready' additives such as Chondroitin. Our product is far stronger than most other brands, making it the most popular and best value product on the market.</p> <p><b>OUR PRICE £14.94 for 90 tablets</b> Buy one get one free</p>
<p><b>SAVE UP TO £8.00</b></p> <p><b>Zinc Citrate 15mg - Easily Absorbed Form</b></p> <p>We present you Zinc Citrate as one of the most easily absorbed forms of Zinc. Each capsule contains 15mg of Zinc. The Zinc Citrate is a pure extract, with 100% bioavailability. It's the difference between 15mg of Zinc (in one capsule) and 10mg (in two capsules). Our price is much better value.</p> <p><b>OUR PRICE £4.90 for 90 Capsules</b> Buy one get one free</p>	<p><b>SAVE UP TO £7.00</b></p> <p><b>Cod Liver Oil 1000mg - High Potency</b></p> <p>In our opinion, this is one of the best Cod Liver Oil products available. As well as supplying the full 1000mg of Vitamin A and D we also guarantee the levels of the fatty acids EPA and DHA. Many companies fail to list any levels at all. This makes their value difficult to judge.</p> <p><b>OUR PRICE £5.20 for 90 Capsules</b> Buy one get one free</p>	<p><b>SAVE UP TO £11.00</b></p> <p><b>Evening Primrose Oil 500mg - Top Quality Capsules</b></p> <p>Our Evening Primrose Oil contains a guaranteed level of Gamma-Linolenic Acid (GLA) in each capsule. This is the most popular and best value product on the market.</p> <p><b>OUR PRICE £5.40 for 60 Capsules</b> Buy one get one free</p>

The Nature's Best name is your guarantee that you are buying the best in terms of quality, potency and purity.

Credit Card Order Line: 01892 552133

Alternatively, you can FAX your order form to: 01892 515863 or POST it to: Nature's Best, 1 Lamberts Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3BE.

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	SUBTOTAL	PRICE
1 x 30, 1 x 60, 1 x 90, 1 x 120, 1 x 150, 1 x 180, 1 x 210, 1 x 240, 1 x 270, 1 x 300, 1 x 330, 1 x 360, 1 x 390, 1 x 420, 1 x 450, 1 x 480, 1 x 510, 1 x 540, 1 x 570, 1 x 600, 1 x 630, 1 x 660, 1 x 690, 1 x 720, 1 x 750, 1 x 780, 1 x 810, 1 x 840, 1 x 870, 1 x 900, 1 x 930, 1 x 960, 1 x 990, 1 x 1020, 1 x 1050, 1 x 1080, 1 x 1110, 1 x 1140, 1 x 1170, 1 x 1200, 1 x 1230, 1 x 1260, 1 x 1290, 1 x 1320, 1 x 1350, 1 x 1380, 1 x 1410, 1 x 1440, 1 x 1470, 1 x 1500, 1 x 1530, 1 x 1560, 1 x 1590, 1 x 1620, 1 x 1650, 1 x 1680, 1 x 1710, 1 x 1740, 1 x 1770, 1 x 1800, 1 x 1830, 1 x 1860, 1 x 1890, 1 x 1920, 1 x 1950, 1 x 1980, 1 x 2010, 1 x 2040, 1 x 2070, 1 x 2100, 1 x 2130, 1 x 2160, 1 x 2190, 1 x 2220, 1 x 2250, 1 x 2280, 1 x 2310, 1 x 2340, 1 x 2370, 1 x 2400, 1 x 2430, 1 x 2460, 1 x 2490, 1 x 2520, 1 x 2550, 1 x 2580, 1 x 2610, 1 x 2640, 1 x 2670, 1 x 2700, 1 x 2730, 1 x 2760, 1 x 2790, 1 x 2820, 1 x 2850, 1 x 2880, 1 x 2910, 1 x 2940, 1 x 2970, 1 x 3000, 1 x 3030, 1 x 3060, 1 x 3090, 1 x 3120, 1 x 3150, 1 x 3180, 1 x 3210, 1 x 3240, 1 x 3270, 1 x 3300, 1 x 3330, 1 x 3360, 1 x 3390, 1 x 3420, 1 x 3450, 1 x 3480, 1 x 3510, 1 x 3540, 1 x 3570, 1 x 3600, 1 x 3630, 1 x 3660, 1 x 3690, 1 x 3720, 1 x 3750, 1 x 3780, 1 x 3810, 1 x 3840, 1 x 3870, 1 x 3900, 1 x 3930, 1 x 3960, 1 x 3990, 1 x 4020, 1 x 4050, 1 x 4080, 1 x 4110, 1 x 4140, 1 x 4170, 1 x 4200, 1 x 4230, 1 x 4260, 1 x 4290, 1 x 4320, 1 x 4350, 1 x 4380, 1 x 4410, 1 x 4440, 1 x 4470, 1 x 4500, 1 x 4530, 1 x 4560, 1 x 4590, 1 x 4620, 1 x 4650, 1 x 4680, 1 x 4710, 1 x 4740, 1 x 4770, 1 x 4800, 1 x 4830, 1 x 4860, 1 x 4890, 1 x 4920, 1 x 4950, 1 x 4980, 1 x 5010, 1 x 5040, 1 x 5070, 1 x 5100, 1 x 5130, 1 x 5160, 1 x 5190, 1 x 5220, 1 x 5250, 1 x 5280, 1 x 5310, 1 x 5340, 1 x 5370, 1 x 5400, 1 x 5430, 1 x 5460, 1 x 5490, 1 x 5520, 1 x 5550, 1 x 5580, 1 x 5610, 1 x 5640, 1 x 5670, 1 x 5700, 1 x 5730, 1 x 5760, 1 x 5790, 1 x 5820, 1 x 5850, 1 x 5880, 1 x 5910, 1 x 5940, 1 x 5970, 1 x 6000, 1 x 6030, 1 x 6060, 1 x 6090, 1 x 6120, 1 x 6150, 1 x 6180, 1 x 6210, 1 x 6240, 1 x 6270, 1 x 6300, 1 x 6330, 1 x 6360, 1 x 6390, 1 x 6420, 1 x 6450, 1 x 6480, 1 x 6510, 1 x 6540, 1 x 6570, 1 x 6600, 1 x 6630, 1 x 6660, 1 x 6690, 1 x 6720, 1 x 6750, 1 x 6780, 1 x 6810, 1 x 6840, 1 x 6870, 1 x 6900, 1 x 6930, 1 x 6960, 1 x 6990, 1 x 7020, 1 x 7050, 1 x 7080, 1 x 7110, 1 x 7140, 1 x 7170, 1 x 7200, 1 x 7230, 1 x 7260, 1 x 7290, 1 x 7320, 1 x 7350, 1 x 7380, 1 x 7410, 1 x 7440, 1 x 7470, 1 x 7500, 1 x 7530, 1 x 7560, 1 x 7590, 1 x 7620, 1 x 7650, 1 x 7680, 1 x 7710, 1 x 7740, 1 x 7770, 1 x 7800, 1 x 7830, 1 x 7860, 1 x 7890, 1 x 7920, 1 x 7950, 1 x 7980, 1 x 8010, 1 x 8040, 1 x 8070, 1 x 8100, 1 x 8130, 1 x 8160, 1 x 8190, 1 x 8220, 1 x 8250, 1 x 8280, 1 x 8310, 1 x 8340, 1 x 8370, 1 x 8400, 1 x 8430, 1 x 8460, 1 x 8490, 1 x 8520, 1 x 8550, 1 x 8580, 1 x 8610, 1 x 8640, 1 x 8670, 1 x 8700, 1 x 8730, 1 x 8760, 1 x 8790, 1 x 8820, 1 x 8850, 1 x 8880, 1 x 8910, 1 x 8940, 1 x 8970, 1 x 9000, 1 x 9030, 1 x 9060, 1 x 9090, 1 x 9120, 1 x 9150, 1 x 9180, 1 x 9210, 1 x 9240, 1 x 9270, 1 x 9300, 1 x 9330, 1 x 9360, 1 x 9390, 1 x 9420, 1 x 9450, 1 x 9480, 1 x 9510, 1 x 9540, 1 x 9570, 1 x 9600, 1 x 9630, 1 x 9660, 1 x 9690, 1 x 9720, 1 x 9750, 1 x 9780, 1 x 9810, 1 x 9840, 1 x 9870, 1 x 9900, 1 x 9930, 1 x 9960, 1 x 9990, 1 x 10020, 1 x 10050, 1 x 10080, 1 x 10110, 1 x 10140, 1 x 10170, 1 x 10200, 1 x 10230, 1 x 10260, 1 x 10290, 1 x 10320, 1 x 10350, 1 x 10380, 1 x 10410, 1 x 10440, 1 x 10470, 1 x 10500, 1 x 10530, 1 x 10560, 1 x 10590, 1 x 10620, 1 x 10650, 1 x 10680, 1 x 10710, 1 x 10740, 1 x 10770, 1 x 10800, 1 x 10830, 1 x 10860, 1 x 10890, 1 x 10920, 1 x 10950, 1 x 10980, 1 x 11010, 1 x 11040, 1 x 11070, 1 x 11100, 1 x 11130, 1 x 11160, 1 x 11190, 1 x 11220, 1 x 11250, 1 x 11280, 1 x 11310, 1 x 11340, 1 x 11370, 1 x 11400, 1 x 11430, 1 x 11460, 1 x 11490, 1 x 11520, 1 x 11550, 1 x 11580, 1 x 11610, 1 x 11640, 1 x 11670, 1 x 11700, 1 x 11730, 1 x 11760, 1 x 11790, 1 x 11820, 1 x 11850, 1 x 11880, 1 x 11910, 1 x 11940, 1 x 11970, 1 x 12000, 1 x 12030, 1 x 12060, 1 x 12090, 1 x 12120, 1 x 12150, 1 x 12180, 1 x 12210, 1 x 12240, 1 x 12270, 1 x 12300, 1 x 12330, 1 x 12360, 1 x 12390, 1 x 12420, 1 x 12450, 1 x 12480, 1 x 12510, 1 x 12540, 1 x 12570, 1 x 12600, 1 x 12630, 1 x 12660, 1 x 12690, 1 x 12720, 1 x 12750, 1 x 12780, 1 x 12810, 1 x 12840, 1 x 12870, 1 x 12900, 1 x 12930, 1 x 12960, 1 x 12990, 1 x 13020, 1 x 13050, 1 x 13080, 1 x 13110, 1 x 13140, 1 x 13170, 1 x 13200, 1 x 13230, 1 x 13260, 1 x 13290, 1 x 13320, 1 x 13350, 1 x 13380, 1 x 13410, 1 x 13440, 1 x 13470, 1 x 13500, 1 x 13530, 1 x 13560, 1 x 13590, 1 x 13620, 1 x 13650, 1 x 13680, 1 x 13710, 1 x 13740, 1 x 13770, 1 x 13800, 1 x 13830, 1 x 13860, 1 x 13890, 1 x 13920, 1 x 13950, 1 x 13980, 1 x 14010, 1 x 14040, 1 x 14070, 1 x 14100, 1 x 14130, 1 x 14160, 1 x 14190, 1 x 14220, 1 x 14250, 1 x 14280, 1 x 14310, 1 x 14340, 1 x 14370, 1 x 14400, 1 x 14430, 1 x 14460, 1 x 14490, 1 x 14520, 1 x 14550, 1 x 14580, 1 x 14610, 1 x 14640, 1 x 14670, 1 x 14700, 1 x 14730, 1 x 14760, 1 x 14790, 1 x 14820, 1 x 14850, 1 x 14880, 1 x 14910, 1 x 14940, 1 x 14970, 1 x 15000, 1 x 15030, 1 x 15060, 1 x 15090, 1 x 15120, 1 x 15150, 1 x 15180, 1 x 15210, 1 x 15240, 1 x 15270, 1 x 15300, 1 x 15330, 1 x 15360, 1 x 15390, 1 x 15420, 1 x 15450, 1 x 15480, 1 x 15510, 1 x 15540, 1 x 15570, 1 x 15600, 1 x 15630, 1 x 15660, 1 x 15690, 1 x 15720, 1 x 15750, 1 x 15780, 1 x 15810, 1 x 15840, 1 x 15870, 1 x 15900, 1 x 15930, 1 x 15960, 1 x 15990, 1 x 16020, 1 x 16050, 1 x 16080, 1 x 16110, 1 x 16140, 1 x 16170, 1 x 16200, 1 x 16230, 1 x 16260, 1 x 16290, 1 x 16320, 1 x 16350, 1 x 16380, 1 x 16410, 1 x 16440, 1 x 16470, 1 x 16500, 1 x 16530, 1 x 16560, 1 x 16590, 1 x 16620, 1 x 16650, 1 x 16680, 1 x 16710, 1 x 16740, 1 x 16770, 1 x 16800, 1 x 16830, 1 x 16860, 1 x 16890, 1 x 16920, 1 x 16950, 1 x 16980, 1 x 17010, 1 x 17040, 1 x 17070, 1 x 17100, 1 x 17130, 1 x 17160, 1 x 17190, 1 x 17220, 1 x 17250, 1 x 17280, 1 x 17310, 1 x 17340, 1 x 17370, 1 x 17400, 1 x 17430, 1 x 17460, 1 x 17490, 1 x 17520, 1 x 17550, 1 x 17580, 1 x 17610, 1 x 17640, 1 x 17670, 1 x 17700, 1 x 17730, 1 x 17760, 1 x 17790, 1 x 17820, 1 x 17850, 1 x 17880, 1 x 17910, 1 x 17940, 1 x 17970, 1 x 18000, 1 x 18030, 1 x 18060, 1 x 18090, 1 x 18120, 1 x 18150, 1 x 18180, 1 x 18210, 1 x 18240, 1 x 18270, 1 x 18300, 1 x 18330, 1 x 18360, 1 x 18390, 1 x 18420, 1 x 18450, 1 x 18480, 1 x 18510, 1 x 18540, 1 x 18570, 1 x 18600, 1 x 18630, 1 x 18660, 1 x 18690, 1 x 18720, 1 x 18750, 1 x 18780, 1 x 18810, 1 x 18840, 1 x				



# Traditional cure is pick-me-up for Hong Kong

FROM JILL MCGIVERN IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG is launching a new industry with a product that is thousands of years old: Chinese traditional medicine.

Old Hong Kong was built on manufacturing, which has largely disappeared to cheaper parts of South-East Asia or southern China. Now, in an attempt to fill the vacuum, there are radical new ambitions to develop the territory into an international centre for Chinese medicine.

As interest in holistic medicine grows, Hong Kong — international but now part of China — finds itself in a unique position to cash in.

Mainland China has a lot of research and several thousand years of experience," says Dr Daniel Tse, a leading

government adviser on the development of Chinese medicine. "But they lack credibility in terms of quality control and knowledge of the world market. These are the things Hong Kong is very good at."

Dr Tse says that, before the Second World War, Chinese medicine was the main service available to the population. But when public health was developed, the Government excluded it from the public sector, although it was still available privately. "The attitude was leave it alone — if it dies, it dies, if it lives, it lives," says Dr Tse. "As a result, there's been no legal framework on which Chinese medicine could develop. It did a lot of damage."

The new plans also fit Hong Kong's fresh political direction. The 18 months since the handover have brought a new emphasis on Chinese culture. Schools have been converted to Chinese-language teaching and the Chinese national flag and anthem are subtly pushed. About half the Hong Kong population uses Chinese medicine on a regular basis, often in conjunction with Western drugs.

The territory's 7,000 practitioners have varying levels of training, if any. Many work in dimly lit shops lined with shadowy jars of herbs, roots and animal parts. Anyone can set up business — and their medicines are unregulated.

But today, the Government introduces a Bill to the Legislative Council to set standards for the profession. It plans a Chinese Medical Council to regulate the three types of practitioner — general doctors, bone-setters and acupuncturists — and their medicines: natural herbs and plants and manufactured remedies from mainland China.

"We want to make sure people who use it have confidence it is safe," says Katherine Fok, the Secretary for Health and Welfare.

The long-term goal is for all Chinese medical doctors to be graduates in the subject and have to pass a licensing examination.



Hope is being pinned on treatments like acupuncture



Phil the groundhog with handler Bill Dealy after leaving his burrow yesterday

## Groundhog has his day as cruelty campaigners fail

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

PHIL the Groundhog got a nasty surprise when he poked his nose out of his burrow on Gobbler's Knob in the Pennsylvania town of Punxsutawney shortly before dawn yesterday.

Not only did the town's famous giant rodent find thousands of onlookers waiting for him to predict this winter's weather. He also stepped into the centre of a controversy about the use of animals in the midwinter festival known to Americans as Groundhog Day.

An old Germanic superstition, transplanted to the New World, holds that if a groundhog casts a shadow on February 2 — the Christian holiday of Candlemas — then bad weather is coming. If there is no shadow, spring will soon arrive.

It has been 110 years since emigrant Germans began holding Groundhog Day ceremonies in Punxsutawney, making it the leading such event in America.

This year, however, the celebration attracted the wrath of animal rights campaigners who insist that Phil ought to be left in peace. The group, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, tried unsuccessfully to enlist Bill Murray, the actor, in a campaign to get the event cancelled.

"Someone's got to speak up for the groundhogs," said Dan Matthews, for the organisation. "This poor creature is dragged into the daylight with people scream-



Bill Murray declined to join the protests

ing at him. You only have to look into his eyes to see how bewildered he is." The organisers in Punxsutawney answer that the nine-year-old Phil lives in comfort, and has his well-being monitored by the state.

The crowd of 15,000 cheered when Phil was unable to see his own shadow — meaning an early spring. **LINKS**  
www.earthhogs.com/index.htm  
The website of Punxsutawney Phil.  
www.earthhogs.org — The history and significance of Groundhog Day.  
members.mel.com/groundhog/ — A site eating groundhogs everywhere.

## Hussein 'holding up' after operation

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan yesterday completed his second bone marrow transplant in two months in a desperate attempt by doctors in the US to halt the spread of lymphatic cancer and postpone the serious instability that his death would provoke in the Middle East.

Speaking from the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, Jordan's Ambassador to the US, Marwan Muasher, said after the transplant was completed that the 63-year-old monarch was "holding up very well" but

"he is going to go through a difficult period for the next two weeks. He will be under close monitoring in case of complications either from the bone marrow or chemotherapy."

The ambassador said that the early indications were "very good". He added that during the crucial two-week monitoring period "every day that passes is a plus for him — increases his chances".

Foreign medical experts said that it was possible the King might spend the fortnight sealed in an immunisation tent to minimise the danger of infection which in his weak condition could prove lethal.

Part of the tragedy of the King's relapse, only days after his triumphant homecoming supposedly cured after six months of treatment in the United States, resulted from possible infection arising from his shaking hands with or embracing more than 2,000 of his citizens and riding 15 miles in the rain in an open-top car.

Last night millions of Jordanians were urged to the Internet to get word of the King's health, as censorship in the Jordanian press and television has made them mistrustful of ever finding out the truth from their own media.

## Ban on live TV audience

JERUSALEM: Israel state television and radio yesterday banned audiences from live political programmes as a leading show host expressed fears that someone might be killed during a broadcast.

Jerusalem: Israel state television and radio yesterday banned audiences from live political programmes as a leading show host expressed fears that someone might be killed during a broadcast.

An unruly mob of pro-government supporters hurled abuse and spat at opposition political figures during a current affairs programme.

## Threat of Timor war grows

FROM DAVID WATTS IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S leading non-governmental aid agency said last night that civil war was inevitable in East Timor unless Indonesia troops withdrew soon.

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid wrote to Alexander Downer, the Foreign Minister, urging prompt action to speed the removal of Jakarta's troops and their replacement

with United Nations peacekeepers. "Our letter sets out our deep concern that civil war is inevitable, if not imminent, in East Timor unless there is some quick and strong action to defuse the situation," Janet Hunt, the director, said.

For the past two decades the Australian Government has tried the Jakarta line, for fear of displeasing the Indonesian Government or jeopardising oil and gas agreements.

The commander of the Indonesian Army, General Wiranto, admitted yesterday that supporters of East Timor's integration with Indonesia are being armed and reports that thousands of villagers are fleeing clashes between pro- and anti-integrationist forces south-west of the capital, Dili. Meanwhile Jakarta yesterday decided to give greater autonomy to regional administrations, which have long resented Jakarta's control over their natural resources and development.

### SPECIAL 2 NIGHT OFFER, VALID 7 DAYS A WEEK



£19.95 PER ROOM PER NIGHT

Travelodge Benefits:

- Luxury Hypnos beds\*
- Spacious en-suite rooms
- Free parking\*
- Tea and Coffee making facilities
- Free newspaper
- Satellite TV in every room
- Friendly restaurants\*
- Under £5.00 per person per night with a family of four

**£19.95 all in.**  
Sleeps up to a family of 4.

At Travelodge our en-suite rooms can comfortably sleep up to 2 adults and 2 children - that's under £5 per person per night.

To take advantage of our special two night offer, call us now on the number below. There's nowhere better to stay - for £19.95 all in.

Call Central Reservations before 12.02.99  
Please quote reference P184a

**0800 850 950**

64 PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

Scotland and the North. Burton in Kendal, Chester (Northop Hall), Doncaster, Dumfries, Edinburgh East, Hull (South Cave), Kilmarnock, Kinross, Manchester North, Pontefract (Barnsley), Sheffield, Skipton. The Midlands. Alfreton, Bedford (Nuneaton), Blyth (Notts), Burton South, Grantham (New Fox), Grantham North, Grantham South, Ludlow, North Mutham, Northampton (Upton Way), Retford, Rugby, Stratford (Alcester), Telford, Wellingborough, Wokingham, East Anglia / South East. Canterbury North, Feeding (Colchester), Ipswich (Beacon Hill), Lincoln, Stamford, Thrapston. The South. Alton (Fourmarks), Bedford (South West), Bognor Regis (Pontrill), Exeter, Uphook (Hants), Littlehampton, Okehampton East, Okehampton West, Oxford, Stonehouse, Sutton Scotney North, Sutton Scotney South, Taunton, Tiverton, Warminster. Wales and Ireland. Belfast, Cork, Monmouth, St Clears (Carmarthen), Wrexham.

Terms and Conditions: \*Prices are per room per night. This offer is valid Monday-Sunday and is based on a minimum of 2 consecutive nights at the same Travelodge. No refunds will be given for early departures. Children must be under 12 years. This offer is subject to availability and is only valid at participating sites. This offer can only be redeemed by quoting P184a. A limited number of promotional rooms are available on a daily basis (based on 2 consecutive nights) and must be booked before 12.02.99. This offer is only available for new bookings. Customers must return by 31.03.99. Offer not valid between 12.02.99 to 20.02.99. Offer is only available for new bookings. This offer is not available for group bookings of more than 5 rooms per night. Minimum 2 night charge applies to all past 4pm cancellations. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount scheme (shareholder or otherwise). This offer cannot be redeemed for one night only. VAT included in the price at 17.5% at most sites.

Travelodge

## The PEP that beat 97% of the competition.

Don't miss this outstanding opportunity

2% discount if you invest by 5 April 1999.

The Scottish Widows European PEP is a star performer in any language. It offers superb potential to make your money grow.

- Outperformed over 97% of all 535 unit trust PEPs over the last 5 years
- Invests in a Trust which has been 'AAA' rated in 6 out of the last 7 years
- Investors would have enjoyed average returns of 17.2% p.a. had the Trust been available as a PEP since launch.
- 2% discount on new lump sum investments and transfers before 5 April 1999.

If you're looking for outstanding growth potential, go for a genuine star performer. Call now for full details on how to apply or transfer your existing PEP.

Don't Delay!

For a priority application form call now on

**0345 6789 10**

and quote ref no. 448BA2

SCOTTISH WIDOWS

www.scottishwidows.co.uk



Please return to: Scottish Widows, Direct Sales, PO Box 17036, FREEPOST SC03744, Edinburgh, EH3 0BR.

EUROPEAN PEP

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_ First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. Work \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

We will never make your name and address available to other organisations. However, we will occasionally tell you more about our products and services which we believe will be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this information, please tick this box. ☐

\*Source: Standard & Poor's Microcap 1100-11000, lump sum sterling, offer to bid price, gross income re-invested. 535 funds to survey. \*Source: Standard & Poor's Fund Research 1993-1998. †Based on 16,000 lump sums, 14.25% to 110% offer to bid price, gross income re-invested, assuming our European Trust had been available as a PEP. Over the five years to 1 October 1998, the same investment would have provided an average annual growth rate of 12.8%. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. The value of the tax advantages of a PEP depends on personal circumstances. Where applicable we will recover any overseas tax wherever it is possible and practical to do so. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of any overseas investments to go down as well as up. The tax position of PEPs will change in April 1999. For your protection calls may be recorded or monitored. Issued by Scottish Widows Investment Management Limited. Registered in the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO.

05/12/98



150-66-110

# Wake me in a year or so...

A US anaesthetist believes that suspended animation may soon be possible, bringing significant medical advances. Anjana Ahuja reports

**C**an human beings hibernate? Surgeons hoping to perform certain operations, such as delicate neurosurgery, are able to cool patients down so much that their life signs disappear for about an hour. Now that scientists know it can be done, some have started searching for techniques that will allow people to be "shut down" indefinitely.

The spin-offs would be tremendous — people needing organ transplants could be "suspended" until suitable organs are found. Severe burns victims, who normally die from infections within days, could be cooled down to temperatures too

low for bacteria to thrive. While they are suspended, patches of their own skin could be grown for grafts. Space travellers could be put into suspended animation and reawakened at far-off destinations.

While cryogenists — who advocate deep-freezing bodies so they can be thawed out at a later date — cannot look to the living world for proof that their technique will work, there are plenty of warm-blooded mammals, such as bats and dormice, for whom hibernation is part of their natural life cycle.

The cooling technique already in use carries risks and is therefore used only on patients likely to die within a year. Those with a giant basilar artery aneurysm — the swelling of a blood artery close to

the brain stem — are prime candidates. The first step in the procedure is to insert a heart bypass. Then the circulating blood is passed through a machine, which cools it. At between 14C and 18C (normal body temperature is 37C), circulation stops. There is no pulse, no heartbeat, no electrical signals. (Yogis can reportedly achieve this through willpower alone.) Neurosurgeons can then enter the brain and clip out the aneurysm.

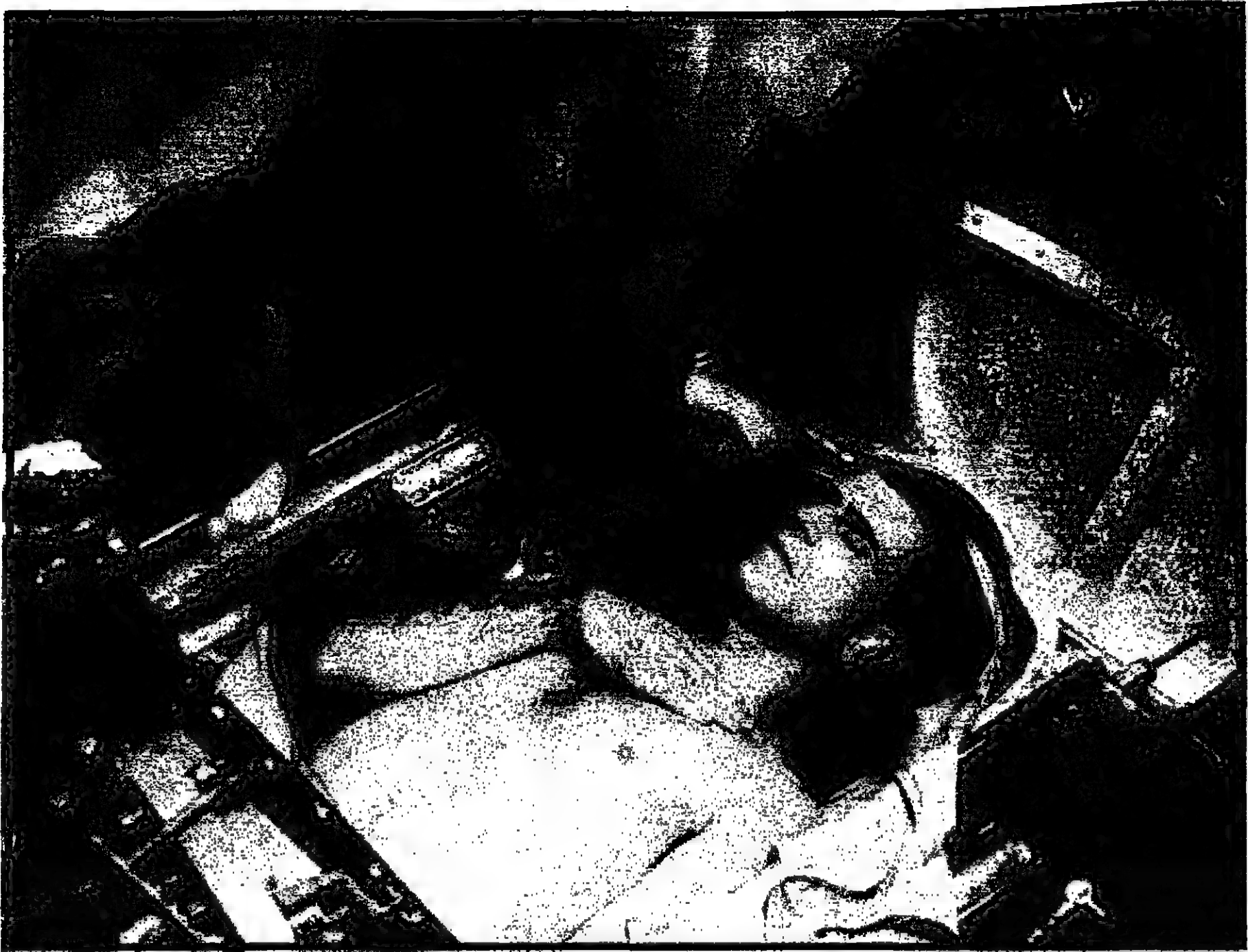
"If you don't cool the patient down and stop their circulation, it's like working on a car with the engine running," says John Hartung, Professor of Anaesthesiology at the State University of New York. Even so, there is no guarantee that patients will emerge unscathed from the experience — about one in five dies. "The difficulty is not the surgery itself," he says. "It's when you cool things down."

The problem lies with the nerve cells in the brain that ferry messages back and forth. Professor Hartung explains: "Nerve cells send signals by opening channels that allow sodium to flow into the cells and potassium to flow out. When the patient is cooled down, these channels are plugged. However, sodium continues to leak through the plug into the nerve cells. So when the patient is warmed up again, the nerve cells become overwhelmed with sodium. Water moves around to compensate and this causes swelling. Blood can't push through because of the high pressure, and that's the end of the patient. What's going on in the brain can be compared to a battery: if left for long enough, the battery goes dead and can't be recharged."

Professor Hartung, who features in a documentary to be shown next week on the satellite channel UK Horizons, is a vociferous supporter of research into human hibernation. He feels that the key to success lies in dealing with the leaking sodium. He has been experimenting on rats, using tetrodotoxin (TTX), a poison found in the puffer fish. In small doses, the poison causes paralysis. In large quantities, it is fatal. Strangely, puffer fish are regarded as a delicacy in Japan. However, brave diners are at the mercy of chefs who must hold licences to cook the fish. While a small amount of TTX is said to cause a pleasurable tingling, about 70 people die each year from TTX poisoning.

ing. The poison has also been invoked to explain the phenomenon of zombies — people who apparently rise from the grave. Haitian medicine men who apparently have the power to turn people into the "undead" are known to use puffer fish in their herbal preparations. It is conceivable that "zombies" are individuals who have simply gone into temporary paralysis.

One of the effects of the toxin is to shut down sodium channels in the brain — exactly what is needed to



Mel Gibson in the film *Forever Young* — a Hollywood fantasy, perhaps, but some scientists believe that a form of suspended animation can be achieved within five years



Professor John Hartung

counter the problem of sodium leakage. "I have given TTX to rats, cooled them down from their normal temperature of 38C right down to 1C, kept them there for a couple of hours, and then brought them back," Professor Hartung explains. "The problem was it didn't always work. I wasn't always able to wake them. I didn't know how to remove the TTX to get the sodium channels working again."

What he needed was an antidote to TTX, which does not exist. However, a few groups around the world, including researchers in the United States Army, claim to have found chemicals that greatly diminish TTX's deadliness.

Professor Hartung, who plans to explore these new findings, thinks that, with the will and the money, the first patients could be going into "shut down" within five years.

Professor John Hallenbeck, of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, near Washington, is cautious: "There

are undoubted benefits in applying hibernation to humans. But I am not sure how we would begin to approach it without having first understood how it takes place in animals. We do not know how hibernation is orchestrated, or what the master signals are."

He still hopes that such research may lead to treatments for circulatory disorders such as stroke.

Professor Hartung says, however, that "human hibernation may sound fanciful but it isn't far-fetched". Cryogenics, though, is "rather silly".

"We cannot freeze whole organisms. There is so much water in the human body that when you thaw it out, it falls apart. Yet there are warm-blooded mammals who hibernate. If we can figure out how the bats and the ground squirrels do it, we should have enough information to do it with humans."

● Supernatural Science, UK Horizons on Monday at 9pm.

## Capturing the comet's tail

ON SATURDAY the Stardust satellite is due for launch from Cape Canaveral in Florida, bound for the comet Wild 2. Its aim is to capture the comet's tail and bring it back to Earth. The tiny dust particles that make up the tail could help to answer a question once dismissed as scarcely worth consideration: did life begin in space?

When Sir Fred Hoyle and Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe of Cardiff University, suggested this 20 years ago, they were ignored. But the discovery of organic chemicals on Halley's Comet, and the claims made in 1996 of the detection of microfossils in a meteorite from Mars, changed things. Investigations of panspermia (as the theory is called) came to be seen as legitimate, says Professor Wickramasinghe, but unfortunately they were too late to influence the experiments on Stardust, which do not include any search for living microbes.

He is putting his faith in a cheaper experiment planned by the Indian Space Re-



SCIENCE BRIEFING  
Nigel Hawkes

search Organisation. With collaboration from scientists at Cardiff, it intends to launch a series of balloons into the stratosphere and use them to collect samples of air at different heights. If the panspermia hypothesis is true, the Earth is bombarded by micro-organisms from outer space, which we cannot detect because they are identical to those already present on the Earth's surface.

Previous balloon experiments have detected micro-organisms at heights of almost 25 miles. There was also a hint that the number of microbes increased with altitude, which would certainly support the idea of an extraterrestrial source. But in the 1960s and 1970s, comparatively primitive techniques made it difficult to eliminate the possibility of contamination by microbes from the surface of the Earth.

The key, then, is to ensure absolute sterility of the pumps that will suck in the air, and highly sensitive techniques for detecting any bacteria or other microbes in

the air once it has been brought back to Earth. Microbes of extraterrestrial origin would be expected to contain different ratios of isotopes of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen from terrestrial ones, enabling a clear identification to be made.

How many microbes might be picked up? Professor Wickramasinghe has attempted a calculation. It is estimated that about 500 tons of extraterrestrial material reaches the Earth from space every day. Any microbes contained within it would be starved of nutrients and in a state of suspended animation, which means they would be very small. Estimating their mass, and guessing that one particle in every 100 reaching the Earth is a microbe, he concludes that there might be as many as 1,000 per litre of air at a height of 30km. Since the balloon can take a sample of 50 to 100 litres of air, it could capture as many as 100,000 microbes — well above the detection level.

The balloon could be flown by the end of this year, at a cost of £150,000. Most will be provided by the Indian Government, but the UK end of the project needs to raise £50,000. Grants are to be sought from the research councils — but other sources would be equally welcome.

### Magnetic migration



LAST YEAR the magnetic north pole migrated north by 20km, measurements taken in Greenland by the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI) show. This is 10 per cent faster than a year ago, and "the quickest movement since we started measurements in Greenland in 1928", says Torsten Neubert, the head of the DMI's solar terrestrial physics department.

The magnetic pole constantly moves, because the interior motions of the Earth that generate the magnetic field are in-

constant. In the past the poles have flipped over many times, north becoming south and vice versa. According to Physics Web (<http://physicsweb.org>) Dr Neubert thinks that the accelerating movement and the weakening of the field by 1 per cent in the past decade means another flip could occur by the end of the next millennium. This would be bad news. "In the period up to a reversal, the magnetic field would lose its strength and no longer be able to protect Earth from radiation from space. We could be exposed to violent cosmic radiation," he says. But other physicists suggest that the pole would have to be moving towards the Equator, not the true pole, to make a flip likely.

### The safe syringe



MANY syringes are designed to be used once, then thrown away. In reality they are often used more than once, particularly by drug addicts. Sharing syringes increases the risk of infection, and the fact that used ones still have needles sticking out of them poses a danger to doctors, dustmen and anybody else who comes across them. The ideal would be a syringe which, once used, retracted its needle and became both useless and safe.

The Sintef group, a contract research organisation based in Norway, says it has achieved this. Its new needle is mounted against the pressure of a spring, and locked in place by a small "bolt" made from alginate, the carbohydrates made by seaweeds and widely used as thickening agents in the food industry.

Alginates are soluble in water, and all medications being injected are dissolved in water, so as soon as the syringe is filled, the locking bolt starts to dissolve. Within minutes the bolt dissolves and the spring pulls the needle back into the body of the syringe, out of harm's way. This gives plenty of time to use it, but only once. The syringe should be ready for market testing this year.

30p

THE TIMES



## BE A TRAVELLER, NOT A TOURIST.



Four Corners.  
The four-part travel guide  
to the places tourists don't go to.  
Collect part one,  
free in The Times on Saturday.



<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

### EGYPT & KENYA

Cairo's Pyramids and Sphinx, a Nile Cruise in Upper Egypt, then Kenya's wildlife spectacular.

'Two Africas' - distinct yet equally enthralling.

This 11-day tour and safari can be combined with a relaxing stay on the beach in Mombasa, Zanzibar, Seychelles or Mauritius.

**Sonak**  
HOLIDAYS  
ATOL 225 450 1500 4500

For a brochure packed with exotic holiday choices - please call  
**0181 423 3000**

### Quality health insurance



from  
**50p**  
a day

Call  
**0800 7799 55**  
to find out more

**Prime Health**  
A member of the Standard Life Group



# 'You havin' a baby?' asks the cab driver, incredulously

Tuesday: Joanna is depressed. The due date for our baby has come and gone with no sign of nativity. This morning BabyCentre.com, the website for the expectant, has fired off an automatically generated message of congratulations, based on our due date. "The long wait is finally over!" it confidently pronounces. "You've delivered your baby, brought him home, and — now what?"

Well-meaning friends keep calling to see if we have produced, and with each call Joanna gets more fretful. "I feel like this baby is never going to come out," she moans. She deals with her mounting frustration in a New York kind of way. She goes shopping. With every deadline-defying day we accumulate more infantalia. Baby tschotkes (baubles) line the nursery, stuffed toys spill off the shelves, there are piles of chintilly receiving blankets, drawers full of Babygros. Today's addition is a musical mobile of the solar system, with the Earth, Moon, Saturn and an arbitrary star revolving slowly around a smiling yellow Sun to the tune of

Brahms's Lullaby. I assemble it and wind up the melody a couple of times and already the tune is driving me nuts. I find myself humming a sinister interpretation of it, like the soundtrack to a horror movie.

Wednesday: "Oh, how humiliating," Joanna groans. She has received another e-mail, this time from a couple in our birthing class — Susan, the lawyer, and Netzi, the Israeli computer-programmer — proudly announcing the successful birth of their baby daughter. "They were supposed to be two weeks after us," she complains.

"It's not a race, you know," I point out, but Joanna is in no mood for placation. "We should be enjoying this time," I say. "It'll be the last time we have alone together, the last time we have any peace." But the truth is I am humming with impatience myself, eager to end this dragging transition and get on with trying to make all those compromises that friends have gleefully warned us about.

My conversation with Joanna is giving me a headache as her eye-line keeps bobbing



about. She is bouncing on her Gymnic ball, a vast blue plastic inflated ball, reminiscent of those Space Hoppers of our youth but without the stubby handles to hold on to. She has read somewhere that diligent Gymnic ball bouncing can help to induce labour. "A baby is not something you

dislodge," I object. "And neither is it some fatal dangerous-sports junkie who comes flying down the birth canal like a bungee-jumper, hanging on to the umbilical cord for dear life."

Behind my bluster, however, there lurks a deep apprehension. Somehow, in the

process of birthing classes, Joanna has fallen in thrall to our birthing instructor's proselytising zeal for natural birth and I seem to have been manoeuvred into the role of labour coach. The whole thing strikes me as slightly scary; I feel as if we have stumbled into a cult. This is not what I wanted at all. I had imagined myself pacing expectantly about the waiting room, a couple of vintage cigars in my top pocket, waiting for a starved nurse with hair clipped to her hat to announce the birth of my child. Now I have been conscripted to the sharp end — no place for a male civilian.

Thursday: Our entire day is given over to medical probing. At St Luke's Roosevelt Hospital on 60th Street, a silent Chinese technician carries out a sonogram to check that the baby is still dunked in sufficient amniotic fluid. Apparently it is. Then on to an appointment with the obstetrician on Central Park West. I stand in the corner of the surgery, facing the wall, pretending to inspect a family planning calendar while Joanna hops on to the examining chair. Each of

the stirrups, I notice, has been thoughtfully sleeved in a striped oven glove.

"If there are still no signs of labour by early next week, we will have to perform an intervention," the obstetrician says. This, it seems to me, is the language of Special Forces, up there with surgical strikes. The vocabularies of medicine and war seem to be converging. When we get home, Joanna's Gymnic bouncing is particularly frantic. She cannot bear the humiliation of having to be induced. At 7pm she comes into my study, pale-faced. "I think I may be having contractions."

This is not an especially noteworthy remark however, as she says it most days. But as the evening wears on, the contractions become stronger and quicker. At 10.30, we phone the obstetrician on call who sounds reluctant to come in all the way from her home in Nyack, a pretty faux fish-

ing village on the west bank of the Hudson, an hour from the city, for a possible case of false labour.

Two hours later Joanna is gasping with the pain of it, pacing about and trembling uncontrollably. I try to time the contractions but I appear to have forgotten even the most basic tenets of my intensive Lamaze Birthing Course.

Do you time from the beginning of one contraction to the end of the next? Or from the end of one to the end of the following one? At 2am, Joanna can bear the pain no longer and I buzz down to the doorman and ask him to hail a cab.

We stand silently in the descending lift surrounded by sufficient baggage for a long-haul holiday, and I realise that we will, if all goes well, be returning with a third person. The overnight doorman is girded against the freezing damp in a uniform that

would earn the envy of a Ruritanian general on a Gilbert and Sullivan stage.

"The very best of luck, sir," he wishes. He pumps my hand cordially and holds open the cab door. As I duck into the cab I see that the illuminated neon wedge on its roof features a pair of cuffed wrists. "1-800-Innocent," its caption reads. "When you're only allowed to make one call." The taxi driver tips up the peak of his baseball cap and checks out the scene in his rear-view mirror. Joanna emits a long, quavering groan and his eyes widen in alarm. "You havin' a baby?" he asks incredulously, as though no one in Manhattan could be so primitive as to procreate.

"I bloody well hope so," pants Joanna and the driver roars off, savouring the moment of drama on an otherwise sleepy week night. Soon we are hurtling down the deserted concrete canyon of West End Avenue, treating the string of late amber lights and early reds against us like so much surplus Christmas decoration.

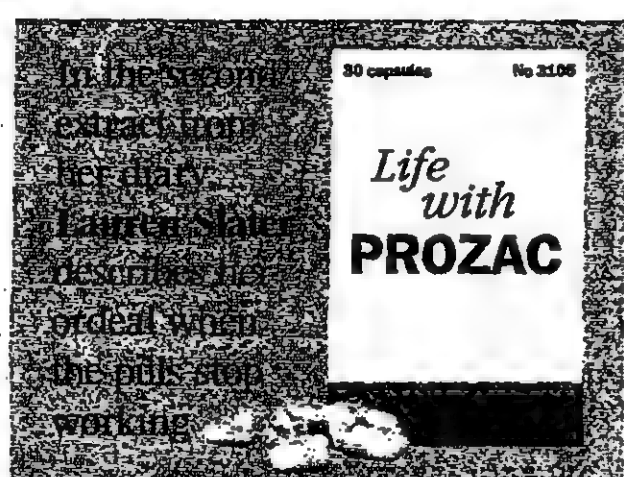
PETER GODWIN

## Prozac is no longer my lover

I fell in love one day — with my pill, not a person. Prozac brought me to pumpkin muffins, yellowfin tuna and plum sauce. It brought me to Harvard, where I was accepted to study — what else? — psychology. So eventually my heart was wooed.

Then, in a way I can't quite define, I came to need it. I began to fear a nuclear war only for the effect that it would have on pharmacies. As I rode on the broad back of Prozac, I felt the hospitals were far away. I got used to health, then I got good at it. Ivy League school. Friends. One morning, I woke reaching for Prozac the way you reach for his hand. My fist closed on the bottle, the connection was complete.

I decided to accept Prozac completely, to declare it an essential, inseparable part of me, my partner in life. To mark this transition, I moved out of my basement apartment. I'd been living in that dank place for longer than I could recall. I loved my new place. The French doors, the white walls, the floors of oiled oak. At school, for the first time, I got all the good grades and impressed people. I took piles of courses. Into my life at this time came a real man. It should come as no surprise that Bennett was a chemist, that he passed his time among



ups are always terrible, but this was so sudden, and so complete.

It was also humiliating. "She is odd," I heard Great-Aunt Mary whisper to Kat, the mother of the family who had kindly agreed to house me.

"May I use your phone?" I squeaked. From across the country I heard the ringing in the doctor's office: he was on vacation.

"Come to church," Kat said. "You're suffering from some city sickness." She reached out, smoothed back my sweaty hair. She led me to the preacher, who painted a cross of oil on my forehead and told God to get a move on and make me

well right here. Right now.

"I'm well," I said, blinking.

"She's well!" the preacher shouted in jubilation tones. The church went into overdrive, everyone clapping and praising the Lord. I felt guilty; I didn't feel any better at all, but thought it would be polite to say I did. They practically wanted to crown

me for letting the Lord in, and so quickly at that. Oh, it was nothing, I said, smiling. I was bothered by the feeling of oil on my forehead. I swore it was dripping. I kept wanting to count the drips.

It took Kat and Great-Aunt Mary only a few hours to see that I was not well. A soon as they saw me walking backwards, they knew. "The Lord works in mysterious ways," I said. "If He has entered my life once, maybe He will again."

I wasn't picturing the Lord when I said that. I was, of course, picturing Prozac.

When the doctor finally got back, I was sick as a dog. "What happened?" I said, frantic.

"It's Prozac poop-out," "Why didn't you warn me?" I asked. "I had really come to love, I mean depend, on this stuff, for my functioning."

"It's OK," the doctor said. "We can up your dose."

"What happens when we have a poop-out problem with the higher dose? Do we keep upping my dose until I die?"

But I wasn't going to take more, and get better, only to fall flat on my face again. The

point wasn't the higher dose; it was getting my relationship with the pill back. And I didn't see how that would happen, now that I had been betrayed.

Maybe I was tired of groveling. Or maybe, more likely, the rage at the doctor, the rage at the two-timing pill, rose up and ran over. Because there was a time, at the end of my Kentucky trip, when things shifted. Exhausted with counting and checking, I had finally fallen into a dreamless sleep. I woke up suddenly, a howl in my mouth, my hands clenched. And then I was outside, walking, pushing past the need to count before every blessed step. I was sick of being betrayed. I was sick of being so thoroughly and pathetically passive. I was walking, thinking these angry thoughts, when from across the field I saw a funnel form, black and spinning, almost woolly. Good. A tornado. I'd punch it out. No problem. I had lost my mind. I held my ground as this bit of black weather approached me. My mind got very quiet. I lifted. Then the funnel moved off.

I had come to the end, which is also the beginning. Over the next few days, even in the thickest of obsessions, moments occurred, split-second snappings of a shutter, the click of freedom. Then closed. I wondered if I could make these snippets enough for me.

A week after the devil dusted, I followed the doctor's suggestion and upped my dose. I didn't die. I am still here. I could up my dose precisely because I learnt, in that field in Kentucky, that I didn't absolutely need to, that if the higher dose betrayed me, I had found something in myself to fall back on. The higher dose did help, though. Some of the one two three, tap tap tap, step on the crack or break your mother's back receded, but Prozac never again made me as well as it once had. It is not my lover any longer, but over the very long haul has become a friend, whose presence can considerably ease pain but cannot erase it. And, really, the relationship is better that way — even though I mourn the passing of my passion — because the great break-up has forced

me into my own muscles. I lift weights at the gym now. I am superb on the StairMaster.

Yesterday I had a bad afternoon, and then I noticed a bit of beauty. "Stop checking the stove for a moment," Bennett said to me. "Come watch my *Datura ferox* bloom."

Sometimes when I cannot go to sleep because I must inspect the but-tery in every smoke detector, Bennett comes into the hall, rubbing one eye, and looks at me up there, on the ladder. "Come down," he says.

I wish I was 100 per cent in my mind. On a good day I am 70 per cent. On a bad day the repetitions and the grief cannot be counted.

"Come down from there," my Bennett says. I come down.

"You're obsessing," he says. "A blip in the serotonin system." He comforts me, takes me to him, and in his touch I feel how I am human.

"I'm going to write a book, about Prozac," I said one day.

"Excellent. I am in favour of projects that increase our understanding of drugs. What will the chapters be about?"

"At least one about sex."

When Prozac was first marketed sexual problems were reported in 1 to 2 per cent of users. Some doctors now report sexual dysfunction in 40 to 50 per cent of their Prozac patients. I know about the problems that can come with long-term intimacy, the blah sensation when you have traced every nook and link in your lover's body. Believe me, though, the distance of which I speak is different. It is physical. It is local. I am not at all bored by Bennett, but it is as though I have been injected with Novocaine at a very specific spot.

Ten years have passed since

I started the drug. Sometimes my hands shake. Last night I felt an odd flutter in my eyes. I know Prozac can have long-term side-effects, but because it is still relatively new, researchers can't say exactly what those might be. Lately I have become concerned about Prozac and memory. I have tried to stop taking the drug several times. I always break up. Maybe not at first. There have been a few weeks when I soared through space, and saw the stars as peaceful. But eventually, there's a little splitting sound, then a big kaboom, and the wreckage is a mess. Last time I tried going off it I became obsessed with dogs and spent \$600 on books about them.

But I am also aware that on the days Prozac works, I am powered beyond me, and pushed into a realm where unfair advantage becomes mine. It could be that my "amazing" productivity (completion of a doctoral programme in two years, becoming a psychologist, director of the clinic where I now work, lecturer, writer and furniture restorer) is not so much due to the "cure" but to the experience of illness, which means I grasp whatever I can, take in time as though it were in short supply.

Prozac takes much away — my cognition may be fading, and my libido may be down — but its presence in my life has been about preserving as well as decaying. About remembering as well as forgetting.

● Extracted from Prozac Diary, to be published this month by Hamish Hamilton at £9.99. Times readers can buy it for £8.99 through The Times Bookshop, 0800-134-459.

● LINKS: all responsible websites emphasise that you should see your doctor before you consider taking Prozac. [www.mentalhealth.com/drug/p30-p05.html](http://www.mentalhealth.com/drug/p30-p05.html); the Mental Health site, designed by a Canadian psychiatrist, has a useful list of information about the drug.



Lauren Slater: "On the days that Prozac works, I am powered beyond me, and pushed into a realm where unfair advantage becomes mine"

## Flying to Japan?



with



Business Class  
you can relax all the way...

Relaxation, comfort and service are the themes that define Club ANA — the ultimate in international business travel.

For further information on Club ANA please call your IATA agent or ANA Reservations on

0345 262 262

ANA  
All Nippon Airways



# Slaves to political correctness

Sense and sensitivity conflict in this multicultural nation

It has been a week when race, once again, has seemed a candidate for America's most intractable problem. It is not that there has been a new act of racist brutality, although there has been a powerful reminder of one, with the preliminaries beginning in the trial of three white Texans who are accused of dragging a black man to death. The latest provocation has not been tragic but, instead, bitterly comic. The nation has been divided by one wayward word. The "niggardly" row, as it has become known, has swept the country, driving Monica Lewinsky from the scripts of talk show hosts and late-night comics.

The affair erupted when a white Washington city official lost his job for using "niggardly" in a budget meeting. The word caused offence to a black colleague who misunderstood its meaning. The first two syllables were taken as a slight. The official in question, David Howard, was until January 27 the head of Washington's Office of Public Advocacy. The word was appropriately used; the city's budget is, indeed, mean and pinched. But after ten days of accusations that he had used the "N-word", Mr Howard resigned, making an abject apology for his failure to foresee potential misunderstanding by those unfamiliar with the word.

It was not just those outside the United States who found the action ridiculous and outrageous. Columnists and newspaper editors across the country denounced the "linguistic lynching" and the "tyranny of ignorance".

It is easy to mock the crippling political correctness, and miss the extent to which racial relations in America are no joke. The hair-trigger sensitivities of this week's farce show that the question of what it takes to glue so many different types of people together into one country is still unsettled. It was no surprise that the dispute happened in the capital. During the lengthy stewardship of the city's Mayor, Marion Barry, it has been a showcase for racial tension at its worst. Mr Barry was a figurehead for many as a result of his leading role in the 1960s Civil Rights movement, but his period in office was marked by incompetence and racial division.

The "niggardly" row started many, however, because it happened under a new Mayor who promised a fresh start. The current incumbent, Anthony Williams, is black and Harvard-educated. He has been hailed as the city's saviour by much of its middle class, both black and white. But he is already under fire from some black commentators for "not being black enough". Sensitivity to that complaint is thought to be part of the reason why Mr Williams instantly accepted Mr Howard's resignation, even though Mr Howard had been key to his election campaign.

And even though academics took his side, Linguistics professors had their 15 minutes of fame, telling the nation that

"niggardly" had its roots in the middle-English word for miserly, while the "N-word" for which it had been mistaken was derived from Spanish or Latin. By many, that argument was taken as the end of the matter. Julian Bond, the chairman of the Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called "niggardly" a "perfectly good word".

But it was striking how many people felt that the word's origins were irrelevant. "It just sounds so bad" was one common response. Jesse Jackson, preacher and civil rights leader, spoke for many when he said: "You've got to be pretty heavy to get into the Scandinavian roots of a word from two centuries ago."

It would be a rash politician who now used the word. In fact, it is probably doomed now to disappear from American debate. It is not that America is losing its passion for the principle of free speech. The dispute came just as a federal court blocked a popular new law which would require Internet pornography sites to demand a credit card number or other proof of being an adult before giving access. Granting an injunction against the Act, the judge said that children would suffer more in the end from the erosion of their rights under the First Amendment to the Constitution than they would from exposure to smut.

The debate is a painful reminder of the suspiciousness towards language that runs through American public life. In a deeply symbolic culture, given to much analysis of "what is really meant" by a phrase or a gesture, words matter. Offence is quickly taken. Neither in Congress nor on television is there the confident verbal rough-housing of the House of Commons or a Jeremy Paxman.

Even more, though, the dispute shows how deeply the sores of racial tension run. 134 years after the end of the Civil War, it is a reminder of how deeply the ideals of the American project were compromised from the start by slavery, and the power racial issues retain to split the country.

Of course, the "niggardly" row is absurd. Farce aside, it also represents a worrying principle. To all the rights in the Constitution, many would like to see a new one added: the right not to be offended, even if for an utterly irrational reason. That instinct is not just illiberal but inapplicable in practice. Yet given the bitterness of the country's racial legacy, it is hard to dismiss the row as a joke. Political correctness is the country's balm of choice for past hatred.

"Niggardly" will not be the last word to fall victim to the spreading realm of the taboo. It is a minor casualty of the fact that the great American experiment started from an untenable point, and the country has not yet succeeded in making its black citizens feel recompensed for that injury.

comment@the-times.co.uk



PARTY THROWN OFF PLANE...

# Married to the mob

Auditors turned a blind eye to crookery, and yet their power grows

The East Side Mob always did their own collecting. The black sedan would screech to a halt. Two men would enter the speakeasy and glide behind the curtain. Briefcases would change hands. The big one would smile, while the small one counted. "Dat," said the big one, "is my accountant. He go to college. He makes up da figures." Some day later the big one was found in the river with concrete shoes. The small one vanished.

Ever since Robert Maxwell disappeared in 1991 from the deck of his yacht, I have been awaiting news of the small one. Four hundred companies went under. Thousands of pensioners were robbed. Four hundred million pounds disappeared. Maxwell's acolytes had to take refuge at the court of King Blair. But the small man stayed vanished. He had taken with him, it was said, a cool £4 million in fees. He was known only as Coopers & Lybrand.

Yesterday he broke cover. He was seen at his club. The club is called the accountancy profession's watchdog, the Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS). It gave the loudest tut-tut it has ever emitted. While remarking that a more competent audit might have led to the "earlier recognition and exposure" of Maxwell's frauds, it could not find it in its heart to savage the mighty house of Coopers, especially in the now even mightier guise of the absurdly named "PricewaterhouseCoopers". It fined the firm a mere £1.2 million plus £2.1 million costs, hardly a single year's Maxwell audit fee. Needless to add, the money will not go to those whom Maxwell robbed. It will go to finance the JDS. Accountants, like lawyers, never lose. Self-censure is not so much a punishment, more a duelling scar.

Some of my best friends are accountants. Theirs can be a noble vocation. I have watched accountants save from disaster factories, schools, clubs, orchestras, theatre companies, even newspapers. They are the keepers of every purse, restraining the over-enthusiastic, the over-enterprising and the merely extravagant. Their metronomic calendar keeps us in order until the Great Reckoning in the sky. And of all accountants, external auditors are the noblest, beholden not to mere firms but to the shareholders, the public and the law.

A group of inarticulate London policemen have had their lives and reputations torn asunder for incom-

petent pursuit of the Lawrence case. They had failed to honour the trust placed in them by the community. The media treated them with all the contempt it could muster. The external auditor is also a policeman, except that he is paid by the police. This conflict of interest is excused with an appeal to professional integrity. An external auditor may be accountable to a firm for his fee, but to his profession for his judgment. I am tempted to conclude that what in a working-class occupation would be seen as blatantly corrupt, in a middle-class one is a badge of pride.

Maxwell was Coopers' biggest client, netting the partnership tens of millions in fees over 15 years of scrutiny. In his biography of Maxwell, Tom Bowler refers to his "relationship with the partners at Coopers, whose tolerance, understanding, and willingness to take the publisher's assurances on trust were a great comfort to him". Coopers had been Maxwell's auditors since the 1970s. Just after Trade Department inspectors had declared him unsuitable to run a public company. This did not put Coopers — or a galaxy of Labour notables — on their guard.

According to yesterday's JDS report, Coopers' man at Maxwell's, the late Peter Walsh, was "of the old school", in accountancy-speak this meant that Walsh was under the spell of the man who paid his bills, and inclined his juniors to conduct favourable reports. At the subsequent inquiry, Coopers employees constantly pleaded the auditor's "fifth amendment": that their job was only to approve what was shown them. Their job was not to watch cash or intercompany loans. Yet they signed accounts which inflated the value of Maxwell firms and enabled him to continue his borrowings and frauds. This continued while every journalist was

streaking Maxwell's crookedness up and down Fleet Street, gagged only by lawyers whom he lubricated as well as his auditors.

The JDS report concludes that "no member of the firm was suborned and there was no dishonesty". Instead Coopers' partners were guilty only of what are called "quality of work" failings. These include "lack of objectivity and scepticism... and shortcomings in both vigilance and diligence... which might have led to the earlier recognition and exposure of the reality of what was happening". All of this, apparently, should in no way disqualify the four partners named in the report from continuing to practise. Gross incompetence in an accountant is formally declared to be no ground for dismissal. The only penalty imposed on individual partners is a tut-tut and in the case of one of them, John Cowling, a fine.

The fine on Mr Cowling is the strangest joke of all. "In our judgment," says the report, "the most serious of complaints in such circumstances could not justify a fine greater than £700." At first I assumed this to be a misprint. Surely for a tycoon of the profession found guilty in the worst case ever judged by his disciplinary body, the figure must be £700,000 on each complaint, or perhaps £70,000? But no, the fines on each count were of £400-£650, totalling £11,050. How does that compare with a negligent surgeon, banker, or travel agent, or the £2 million Carlton's film-makers were fined by the Independent Television Commission for falsely reconstructing a scene in a documentary? Such fines are an insult to every Maxwell pensioner, and a parody of self-regulation.

Accountants are claiming an every bigger role, not just in "corporate governance" but in pub-

lic administration. Like health and safety inspectors, they answer not to democracy (except via some puny Commons committee) but to their profession. Just as private sector audit is revealed by the Maxwell affair as "free without responsibility", so public sector audit is power without responsibility. Professional auditors "approved" such *grands guignols* as the Crown Agents, the British Library, Hackney and Lambeth councils and the administration of housing benefit. If that is audit, Heaven help us all.

The present Government is obsessed with value-for-money audit or VFM. This is a "top down" management technique, embracing performance indicators, objectives monitoring, output measurement and that annual orgy of mechanistic audit, the league table. Discretion once exercised by elected ministers and local councils has passed to such bodies as the local Audit Commission and the National Audit Office. They embody the triumph of the quantifiable over the important. They measure police car speeds, not neighbourhood security. The Audit Commission draws lovely league tables but does not blow the whistle on corruption or maladministration. It is the monkey that sees, hears and speaks no evil.

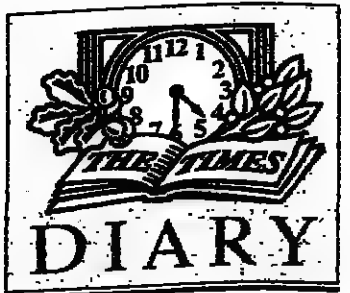
In his pamphlet *The Audit Explosion* (Demos), Michael Power issued a warning that audit was coming to assume "the status of an all-purpose solution to the problems of administrative control". It offered Whitehall a framework for keeping power while presenting an illusion of devolution. Value-for-money audit enabled ministers to tell teachers, doctors and policemen their preferred "performance measures", and then to blame them for failing to deliver. It is a control freak's charter, embodied in the person of David Blunkett. Mr Blunkett will not rest until every teacher and child in the land is under his statistical thumb from dawn to dusk.

Best-value audit is becoming the state religion of "Blatcherism". Not a ministerial speech passes without genuflection to its name. So it must be. But who will audit the auditors? Surely it cannot be left to a profession that admits it should have fingered Robert Maxwell long before he set sail — but preferred instead to take his shilling.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Simon Jenkins



# Major oddity

GROUND control to John Major: the former PM's father inspired David Bowie to write *Space Oddity*, his seminal *Stardust* anthem.

Bowie tells me that he wrote about "Major Tom", the doomed astronaut, after remembering a fading theatre bill advertising Tom Major's circus act (left).

When Bowie (right) wrote the tune in 1969, Tom Major-Ball was living in Brixton, having left the circus to run his faltering gnome enterprise, and the singer — yet to grace the hit parade — was strumming in nearby Bermondsey.

Assuming this tale to be imaginative, I ask Bowie: "No, no," he assures me. "That is pretty close to the mark, but there is debate about dates." Bowie has, I understand, some trouble recalling the period.



● JUST how badly do Tony Blair and Gordon Brown get on? Lord Lamont of Lerwick says: "The thesis that Blair and Brown are at each other's throats is nonsense. They get on far better than Margaret and Nigel — or John Major and I."

# Clerical cruise

SUN loungers at ten paces: the former Bishop of Durham is to go cruising. The Right Rev David Jenkins is to join a Swan Hellenic cruise of Greece and Turkey as a guest lecturer. Among his companions will be Lord Charteris of Amisfield, the Queen's former private secretary and erstwhile Provost of Eton. But after Jenkins' pernicious suggestion that the coronation should be secularised, it might be the cleric who receives lectures on the importance of the Church and State's relationship.

● EARL SPENCER continues to follow in his sister's Gucci shoes. As his fire-damaged home in South Africa is rehatched, the Earl is to sprint down to Bournemouth to open a "drop-in centre" ("drop out", surely) for Aids types. His sister might have created a bigger stir, but at least Charles is trying.

# Common good

AFTER the financial damage done to Clapham Common property prices by Ron Davies's nocturnal ramblings, Neil Jordan is making amends. The film director is to shoot his version of Graham Greene's magnificent *The End of the Affair*, chronicling the doomed romance of a couple after meeting on the suburban swamp.

Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Phillips, the former wife of Bruce Springsteen, have been cast as the leads, which should help to restore the Common's prim reputation.

WHICH DO YOU WANT FIRST THE GOOD NEWS OR THE BAD?



● CHERIE BOOTH is to be the subject of a sculpture, crafted by Shenda Amery, who styled effigies of such new Labour gurus as Baroness Thatcher and John Major. Who pays is a secret, but Shenda says that it is "a top dollar commission". So new Labour.

# Flour power

BRITAIN'S secret weapon against the Russians: the scone. Our man in Moscow has ordered 220lb of white flour to be sent from Norfolk to his embassy. The plan: to disarm Cossack chums with epicurean ammunition. "It's for trade," I am told. "When they taste cakes made with delicious English flour, they will want to buy British."

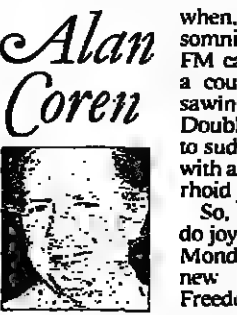
● CHARLIE WHELAN: stand-up comic? The retired spinner has been visiting the Comedy Store, breeding ground for Ben Elton. So what is his best joke? "I don't recall any." Perhaps my memory is better.

JASPER GERARD

# 'I can't be alone in the chagrin which strikes when a batch of jolly adverts makes way for some duff programme about vets or cooks'

When you hear that today's periscope is being brought to you by a man in an understated elegant Turnbull & Asser shirt cosseted by an immensely comfortable Eckermann swivel-chair in front of his truly incomparable Apple Macintosh word-processor, sipping a Selfridge cup of stimulating Douwe Egbert Colombian coffee and puffing at a Silk Cut Extra Mild commendably low in tar yet astonishingly rich in flavour, you will instantly twig that he is a man in whose heart there has always been a special place for advertising. So special, indeed, that he has deliberately misused the word periscope for the sole purpose of telling you that the best place to look it up and put him right is the matchless *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, a snip at £10.99. Friends, you cannot imagine the joy I took in cobbling that

paragraph. How refreshingly different it is from the inconsequential witterings with which I normally pester your Wednesday! How packed to the gunwales with stout concrete stuff, not merely graphic and informative, but invaluable to readers still undecided about what to wear or drink or smoke or sit in or type on — and no less valuable to all the many manufacturers and distributors and retailers and ancillary tradesfolk whose livelihoods require the constant movement of goods, and thus, of course, to the national economy on whose vitality the welfare of each and every one of us depends. Think horseshoe nails, and you will very soon appreciate that the consequence of that first paragraph might well be a hip-replacement for poor hobbling Mrs Stimpkins of Hull or an extra chemistry teacher for stony-broke Cricklewood Com-



Alan Coren

prehensive. That there might also be a bob or two in it for me, we shall come to later. Now, I know I speak for all of us when I say that there is not nearly enough advertising about. I cannot be alone in the chagrin which strikes when a batch of jolly commercials all too soon makes way for the rest of some duff programme about vets or cooks: or when, eagerly grabbing my morning newspaper in the hope of a brand-new double-page spread trumpeting a Curry's sale, I find nothing but towering columns of earnest editorial about Kosovo or Hoddle; or when, on some hitherto delightful drive, enchanting urban billboards peter out to be replaced by a windswept dreary green stuff and sheep: or when, in the small in-somniac hours, Classic FM caringly interrupts a couple of Oistrakh's sawing away at Bach's Double Violin Concerto to suddenly lift the soul with an allegro haemorrhoid jingle. So, then, did you not do joyous cartwheels at Monday's news that a new company called Freedom had got into snugly bed with BT and other suppliers to provide a service whereby you and I will pay nothing at all for our telephone calls, provided we sign up to allow advertisements to be inserted into them? More cheering yet, many of these commercials will be interactive, empowering us — halfway through listening to our brother-in-law banging on about his alopecia — to order a pizza, join the Terri-

als, buy a previously cherished forklift truck, nice runner, no rust, or treble-glaze the chic cedar extension we bought last week during a routine call to our dentist. And won't it, furthermore, make hanging on for half an hour even more fruitful than it is at present? For however much we all enjoy listening to 88 synthesizer choruses of *Volare* counterpointed by 88 capivating reminders that we are being held in a queue, these surely pale beside learning that C & A has a new range of exciting spring trousers, kindly state Visa number and inside-leg measurement after the bleep. But, can you believe it, hardly had my joy at Freedom's inspired and much-needed expansion of advertising sunk in, than I suddenly saw that it also pointed the way to even more life-enhancing possi-

bilities: why not introduce snappy commercials into all conversation? For, of course, a fee — albeit slightly smaller than the one for which I plan to invoice all those mentioned in my opening paragraph, which will have been read, with any luck, by a few more people than one would bump into in the pub. What fun, during some ponderous dinner-party chatter about nannies or President Saddam Hussein, to pop in a trimly turned commercial extolling, say, mild green Fairy Liquid, thereby earning not merely the warm gratitude of guests who had not hitherto realised that hands that do dishes can be soft as your face, but also a quick couple of quid from Procter & Gamble. Oh look, I have reached the point where this article needs a pay-off. Well, that makes two of us. So my message today is: Let Freedom Ring!





## GLADSTONE'S SHADE

Why Kosovo? Why British troops? Blair must explain

On the eve of its 50th anniversary, Nato has taken a decision of great moment, of which the alliance's public are barely aware and for which they are still less prepared. It is planning to deploy ground forces within a sovereign state, turning part of that state into a Nato protectorate. Nothing less is implied by the six-nation Contact Group's unanimously agreed strategy for Kosovo. On the Group's behalf, Robin Cook has summoned Yugoslav and Kosovan Albanian leaders to Rambouillet this weekend. If their signatures to an accord can be extracted, Nato ground troops are to police it. Should they fail, Nato has threatened, in effect, to bomb them back to the table. In this gamble for Balkan peace, British ministers have taken the lead, and British soldiers are likely to be the largest component of a peacekeeping force under British commanders. Gladstone's shade walks the Balkans.

What drives Western politicians is the knowledge that the near-truce secured by Richard Holbrooke last October is collapsing: fighting could immediately resume on a far greater scale. That would not only mean horrendous suffering for the Kosovans, a flood of refugees and a public outcry. It would entail strategic risks. The contagion could spread to Macedonia's large Albanian minority. A political collapse there could tempt Bulgaria and Greece to divide the corpse, inflaming Greco-Turkish tensions on Nato's southern flank. Dampening down the Kosovo tinder is preferable to putting out a southern European blaze.

Hence Nato's decision to act now; but decisiveness as to the means is not matched by clarity about what "success" in Kosovo would entail. The deal falls halfway between Belgrade's insistence that Kosovo is part of Serbia and Kosovan demands, hardened by Serbian repression, for independence. The Contact Group has demanded that both sides sign an accord by February 19. The purpose of Rambouillet is not negotiation, but acceptance of the Contact Group's *diktat*. The plan includes a sharply reduced Serbian security presence in Kosovo but not a total withdrawal; enough self-government for Kosovo to free its Albanian majority from Belgrade's jurisdiction but no independence; and investigations of atrocities by The Hague's special tribunal. The American aim is that William Walker, the US head of the OSCE observer mission, would then act as pro-consul for three years, chairing talks

on the final status of Kosovo, on which the Kosovans would vote in a referendum.

The outline of this plan has, however, been around for months, rejected by all. Rejection, in fact, is all that seems to unite what elusively passes for leadership in Kosovo. Yet Britain, France and Germany are firmly committed to send troops, in Britain's case possibly as many as 8,000. Russia is likely to join. And previously hostile opinion, in Congress and in the Pentagon, has abruptly shifted in favour of contributing a small US force. Compared with the long wrangling over Nato ground forces for Bosnia, the speed with which political plans have become a long-term military commitment is dizzying. But that is not because the prospects of success are greater than they were in Bosnia. Mr Cook insists that Nato soldiers will go in only when there is a peace to keep. In truth, they will go in because the alternative, an uncontrollable war, is too appalling, and too damaging to Nato, to contemplate.

Britain thus finds itself in a military venture whose eventual outcome is uncertain. The Western hope is that Mr Milosevic needs a Nato ultimatum to give him the excuse to relinquish control of a territory so alienated by Serb atrocities as to be uncontrollable except by massive force; and that even the most militantly separatist Kosovans will see that a Nato protectorate is in their interest. This is a gamble that logic of survival will win out over nationalist passion in a region where logic has the shallowest of roots.

The Government is right to have taken this lead. But Tony Blair needs urgently to explain why it is right for Britain, a middling power, to be so heavily engaged in the cause of wider peace. This question will be asked even if he persuades the country that Kosovo cannot safely be left to burn. He must convince anxious citizens that British troops will be there to serve the cause of European peace, not to fly the flag in support of his ambitions to demonstrate Britain's "leadership in Europe". He must guard against future accusations that the British people, whose support for this country's high military profile is a national strength, were in this case not given the full reasons for putting troops in harm's way. The people of this country understand well that a trading nation with global interests must be prepared to deploy its forces where international stability is threatened. But informed assent is the indispensable basis of public support.

## THE HODDLE STORY

The former England coach is not a martyr

The fall of Glenn Hoddle was as necessary as it was inevitable. He had lost the support without which it was impossible to be the figurehead for the national game. He had failed to separate his rights of free speech from his duties as one of the most influential men in a game with vast influence over the life of Britain, particularly over the young. He compounded his original bizarre and irresponsible comments about the disabled with a series of inconsistent and incoherent attempts to pretend that *The Times* had somehow misrepresented him. English football, as well as English public life, will be better without him.

Naturally his sacking has prompted sympathy in some quarters. It has been suggested that his religious freedoms have been trampled in an irrational stampede of political correctness. Other concerned commentators have chosen to cast his fate in terms of Western intolerance of Eastern spirituality or the harsh secularism of a country that has become atheist in so many ways. The England coach has thus been presented to parts of the public as some sort of modern amalgam of St Stephen, Savonarola and Salman Rushdie.

Mr Hoddle is miscast as a martyr. His claims in this respect would be stronger if he had spent the past four days either vigorously defending his views or apologising. In his departure statement yesterday he thanked those friends in the media who

had "tried to establish the truth". The truth has always been clear. Mr Hoddle has been in a state of denial of that truth, implying that his remarks, clearly recorded by our reporter Matt Dickinson, were inaccurate or that they had been distorted. At the same time as his agent was threatening legal action against *The Times*, Mr Hoddle was conceding in another newspaper interview that "The reporter from *The Times* did not misquote me but he did misinterpret me."

An England coach is not barred from spiritual views. But by speculating on deeper reasons for physical disability Mr Hoddle travelled into different territory. Neither is this a matter of undue sensitivity on the part of a lobby. Sport has taken on a transformed role in the lives of the disabled. Competitive events have expanded hugely. Sport has played an enormous role in breaking down the barriers between the handicapped and able-bodied.

This is indicative of a wider change in the importance of sport in society, and the relationship between them. An England football coach, like other sporting icons, is now quite properly considered a public figure in a fashion that would once not have been appropriate. Diplomacy is rightly an essential element of the job. Mr Hoddle was no stranger to these arrangements. His successor should ensure that he is able and prepared to live up to the full duties of the office.

## FACE THE MUSIC

The new Controller of Radio 3 has a tough task ahead

Classical music may value harmony, but debate over its broadcasting has been less than melodic. Roger Wright, the new Controller of Radio 3, has to cater for an elaborate ensemble of tastes. The BBC's classical music network has been accused by some of elitism and inaccessibility, by others of pandering to populist tastes. Mr Wright well understands that it will take all his considerable experience to orchestrate a schedule to suit the broadest band of listeners.

Radio 3's commercial competitor, Classic FM, attracts wide audiences with an astute mix of favourite symphonies, sonatas and suites, carefully timed to accord with daily routines. Soothing classics ease exasperated commuters on the journey home, sprightly concertos rouse them once more the next morning. But, in an interview with *The Times* today, Mr Wright insists that his network "is not in the business of competing with Classic FM". The serious, educative traditions of Radio 3 will not be pushed aside by easy-listening entertainment. A compromise will be sought between corporate pressure to increase

ratings and public obligation to broadcast the widest range of quality music.

Although many enjoy the immaculate recordings offered by the compact disc, to others such perfection seems sterile which is why Mr Wright plans to place greater emphasis on live performance. Differentiating itself from its commercial rival, Radio 3 will relay exciting events from the world of music and audiences will feel almost as if they are participating in international festivals. Mr Wright also intends to expand the remit of Radio 3, by broadcasting the capital's most talked about theatre productions. People in the regions may, one day, no longer need to go to the trouble and expense of travelling to the nearest major city to enjoy, for example, the latest Tom Stoppard or Patrick Marber.

Clearly Radio 3 is to continue to hold the high ground. But for Mr Wright to maintain his course amid a polyphony of conflicting ideas and demands, he will need not only the most determined cast of mind but the unwavering support of the BBC, not least if ratings between Radio 3 and Classic FM gape more widely.

## East Europeans in plea for Pinochet

From the Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and others

Sir, We are writing to express our opposition to the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet to Spain, and make public our support for his role in Chilean history.

All of us are senior political figures in Poland and the Czech Republic, many of whom in the past have experienced imprisonment, violence and other abuses of human rights. We have also suffered the government of communists and their Soviet masters.

The actions of General Pinochet in 1973 were instrumental in rescuing his country from the horrors of communist dictatorship, and preventing a strategic expansion of Soviet global interests at the height of the Cold War. That cause was one many of us fought in Central Europe too, forming a common front with others across the world.

The prosperity and stability of Chile today are also a testament to the righteousness of the actions undertaken by General Pinochet. That stability is now jeopardised by the actions of the British and Spanish authorities.

Many of those opposed to General Pinochet are those who in the 1960s and 1970s were notably mute in the face of suffering by Central Europeans, and who were then quick to offer apologies for the numerous invasions, military coups and internment camps of the Soviets and their puppets in the heart of Europe.

We hope that General Pinochet will soon be free to return to Chile, where it will be for the Chilean people to determine his legal fate and historical legacy.

Yours sincerely,  
MARCIN LIBICKI,  
Vice-President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe,  
VACLAV BENDA,  
Chairman, Office for the Investigation and Documentation of the Crimes of Communism, Czech Republic, 1994-98,  
RYSZARD CZARNECKI,  
Minister for European Integration, Government of Poland,  
VIKTOR DOBAL,  
Member, Czech Parliament, 1990-98,  
ALEKSANDER HALL,  
Member, Polish Parliament,  
MAREK JUREK,  
Member, National Radio & Television Council, Poland,  
STEFAN NIESIOLOWSKI,  
Member, Polish Parliament,  
c/o Robertson & Associates,  
104 Cambridge Street, SW1V 4QG,  
robertson@zo.com,  
February 1.

## Televising courts

From Sir Michael Davies

Sir, Sir Louis Blom-Cooper (letter, January 29) suggests that the Pinochet or a similar appeal in the House of Lords should be televised. If he means live and at length, the inevitable and interminable legal arguments would be deadly boring except to erudite lawyers, perhaps even to them. After initial interest, I am sure viewers would be numbered in hundreds not even thousands. Edited highlights would be no more attractive, because there are few if any highlights. The idea is commercially impracticable.

At the other end of the spectrum, the televising of the sensational O.J. Simpson and Louise Woodward trials certainly made compulsive viewing, but at such cost to the interests of justice that the likelihood of further public circuses thankfully seems to me to have been postponed indefinitely.

Yours truly,  
MICHAEL DAVIES,  
Elliot House, Wolverley,  
Kidderminster, DY11 5XD,  
January 31.

## Full employment

From Mr John Grieve Smith

Sir, Christine Buckley's report and interview with David Blunkett (Business news, February 1) refers to full employment as "one of the great shibboleths of the Labour Left" and a "socialist dream". But the wartime vision of full employment was shared by people of all parties and expressed in the coalition Government's 1944 White Paper on Employment Policy.

Its subsequent attainment for over 25 years was an achievement of both Labour and Conservative governments. It was only in the 1980s that the deliberate maintenance of a substantial pool of unemployment became the accepted means of curbing inflation.

The fact that people now change jobs more often is not synonymous with the end of full employment. Indeed a strong demand for labour and the availability of alternative jobs facilitate industrial change.

The "social justice" and "social cohesion" to which David Blunkett aspires will only be achieved if full employment is once again put high on the political agenda, and the less skilled and less qualified are no longer left scrambling for insecure and ill-paid jobs at the bottom of the employment ladder.

Yours,  
JOHN GRIEVE SMITH  
(Author, *Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed*, Macmillan 1997),  
Robinson College,  
Cambridge CB3 9AN,  
February 1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Glenn Hoddle case casts light on freedom of speech

From the Headmaster of Abingdon School

Sir, I spent part of a current affairs period today discussing with some of my sixth-formers the reported views of Mr Glenn Hoddle about reincarnation. They spoke in impressively judicious tones about the likely impact of Mr Hoddle's remarks on disabled people. A number of them clearly felt that he had offended so gravely that he deserved to be dismissed from his post as England's football coach.

We became more animated, however, when I ventured to suggest that the opinions of a football manager, even of national status, upon a matter of religious conviction were hardly worth anybody's time — let alone that of leading politicians. I was given to understand, in no uncertain terms, that nothing could possibly be more important than football, that it was the essence of our national identity and that the officers of the game must be beyond reproach.

It was only when I put forward what was understood as a manifestly absurd proposition — that football is a waste of time and football managers utterly insignificant people — that my intelligent pupils could be brought to realise that the principle of freedom of thought might sometimes require the public toleration even of unattractive opinions. They were kind enough, at least, to refrain from calling for my immediate dismissal.

We then turned, with a sense of anticlimax, to Kosovo and constitutional reform in Britain.

Yours faithfully,  
M. ST JOHN PARKER,  
Headmaster, Abingdon School,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 1DE,  
February 1.

From Mr Glynn Vernon

Sir, I have been disabled all my life; I have cerebral palsy, and like most disabled people I am well used to the misconception held by able-bodied people that my life, along with those of other disabled people, is a tragic struggle, and the thing I must desire above all else is to be "cured" of my palsy and become "normal", presumably fully equipped with a "half-decent brain" like Mr Hoddle.

Maybe that's the problem. Maybe Glenn should have left the intellectual stuff to those of us with more than half-decent brains and concentrated

on teaching people how to kick a ball into a net. You can forgive a man for being a fool if England are beating the world at football.

Yours faithfully,  
GLYNN VERNON  
(Member, Executive Council, Scope),  
1 Innholder Court, Neath Hill,  
Milton Keynes MK14 6JN.  
glynn.vernon@virgin.net,  
February 2.

From Mrs Sue Davidson

Sir, As a parent of a severely autistic daughter, I have come into contact with many other severely mentally handicapped children and their parents. Parents often feel an initial sense of guilt about their handicapped or disabled child as I did, they often believe that their child's disability is a punishment. Glenn Hoddle's claims do nothing to help matters.

I've always believed these children to be closer to God than I'll ever be, and that they were born into this world to teach others a lesson; my daughter has certainly taught me the lesson of unconditional love, and the irrelevance of material things.

Despite the problems which I've encountered in raising her, I believe in God and an afterlife. As her 18th birthday draws nearer, I often ponder on what could have been. However, it gives me the strength to carry on to know that one day, although not in this life, she will be made "whole".

Yours sincerely,  
S. DAVIDSON,  
3 Gyfe Gardens,  
Abergaville, Carmarthen,  
Carmarthenshire SA31 2JD,  
January 30.

From the Reverend Ronald Alpiar

Sir, Your editorials (February 1 and 2) urge that Glenn Hoddle should resign, having given gross offence to the disabled.

Coming from *The Times*, that's a bit rich! Had *The Times* not reported Hoddle's remarks, only the relatively few disabled persons privy to his views would have been offended. By publishing those views, *The Times* has itself multiplied many thousands the number of those so offended.

Yours etc,  
RONALD ALPIAR,  
84 Durdusbury Road,  
Farnham, Dorset BH22 8RG.  
alpiar@edial.piper.com,  
February 2.

## Compensation for medical error

From Mr Nigel H. Harris, FRCS

Sir, Dr Michael Saunders, Chief Executive of the Medical Defence Union (letter, January 21), claims that "there is no evidence of a fall in clinical standards amongst the medical profession". I find it hard to accept that the very considerable increase in successful claims over the last ten years is largely the result of a change in public attitudes and awareness, as he implies.

He is presumably referring to patients who seek compensation (many of whose cases are abandoned). I would refer him to patients (plaintiffs) whose claim is successful because the standard of medical care (diagnosis, adequacy of pre-operative information given to the patient and quality of treatment) has fallen below that which they are entitled to expect and was not in accordance with accepted medical practice.

Evidence from over 3,000 orthopaedic potential negligence claims referred to me over the last 15 years convinces me that in certain respects standards have indeed fallen. I would be surprised if other disciplines did not reach the same conclusion.

Yours faithfully,  
N. H. HARRIS  
(Council Member,  
Academy of Experts),  
72 Harley Street, W1N 1AE.

From Miss Phyllis Bennett

Sir, The suggestion by Dr Saunders that a patient who has been the victim

of NHS clinical negligence should be restricted to receiving ongoing care only within the NHS would infringe every patient's right to choose. It would limit the general principle of English law that an injured party is entitled (in so far as money can achieve this) to be restored to the position in which he or she would have been but for the negligent act, and it is unlikely to save the NHS significant sums.

In my experience, as a solicitor specialising in clinical negligence, the most expensive claims are usually those for services or equipment either unavailable or inadequately provided on the NHS. These may include sufficient skilled care to give both patient and family some independence, computer equipment to enable a brain-damaged patient to communicate normally, extra physiotherapy to maximise potential, and the finest available prostheses.

Each successful clinical negligence claim is the result of eminent doctors concluding that the standard of care a patient received fell below that of the ordinarily skilled clinician specialising in that area of medicine, judged by the standards of that time. Why should the compensation available vary according to whether the accused is a careless driver or a careless doctor? The resultant misery does not.

Yours faithfully,  
PHYLLIS BENNETT,  
Walker Martineau (solicitors),  
64 Queen Street, EC4R 1HB,  
January 25.

## The Monty style

From Mr Michael Goldman

Sir, May I add a mystery to the reminiscences of Field Marshal Lord Montgomery (letters, January 18, 22 and 28)? In, I think, 1943, at the height of the war, the boys of Manchester Grammar School assembled to hear Montgomery address them on the subject of leadership. It was only many years later that it occurred to me how strange it was that this war leader should have taken time from his military duties to talk to a few hundred of us schoolboys. Contemporaries also remembered the occasion.

In August 1967 I wrote to the great man, who replied by return, writing in red ink on the back of my letter: "I definitely did not visit Manchester Grammar School in the 1940s."

Some years later the then High Master of the school assured me that Monty's signature did appear in its visitors' book. So was the field marshal's memory at fault, or was it a visit by his double?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL GOLDMAN,  
1 Lyndale Close,  
Blackheath, SE3 7RG,  
January 31.

## Cruelty to animals

From Mr Martin Offer

Sir, On January 28 *The Times* reported the case of a circus trainer who was convicted of hitting an animal with a riding crop. The report spoke of her reputation being "in tatters".

Two days later you printed a half-page feature extolling the skills of a young man who tortures animals to death in public. The report referred to him as a "genius".

How is it that bullfighting continues to exist in a moral vacuum, exempt from the standards of humane treatment, indeed humanity, which are common elsewhere?

Yours sincerely,  
MARTIN OFFER,  
4 Lion Road, Nyetimber,  
Pagham, West Sussex PO21 3JZ,  
February 1.

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

From Mr G. J. Fellows

Sir, Having worked for more than three decades with disabled people, I believe there are very few who are not big enough simply to shrug off remarks made by Glenn Hoddle as they have to do with misunderstanding (and worse) from many quarters. But what of the rest of us? What has happened to this nation of tolerance and freedom of speech?

Yours faithfully,  
G. J. FELLOWS,  
Dawsons Cottage, 65 Lower Radley,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire OX14 3AY,  
February 1.

From Mr John Dilks

Sir, The FA is not responsible for the views Glenn Hoddle has expressed; but it is largely responsible for the fact that he expressed them.

The England coach must have the abilities to create a successful squad; but equally important are the political and diplomatic skills required of someone who will be regarded as a role model by hundreds of thousands of children.

The FA should have provided Hoddle with guidance on equal opportunities issues, diplomacy and, perhaps, general presentational skills. Arguably, without such help he was almost bound to say something like this eventually.

Yours etc,  
JOHN DILKS,  
Huddnall Lane,  
Little Gaddesden,  
Hertfordshire HP4 1QE,  
February 1.

From Mr Brian W. Codd

Sir, What kind of world do we live in? The England football coach makes a silly, injudicious remark, a personal opinion with which clearly few people agree. However, perhaps sensing votes may be at stake, ministers call for his head. Meanwhile, these same ministers are part of a Government which includes a colleague who for many years apparently deceived his wife and children in a despicable manner. I don't recall these ministers calling for him to be sacked.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN W. CODD,  
Hope Cottage, Hampton Court Road,  
Hampton Court, Surrey KT8 9DA,  
February 2.

## The Civil War

From Professor B. S. Capp

Sir, Your leader on the Civil War and its aftermath ("Why Charles died", January 30) fairly summarises revisionist thinking but is in danger of throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

While the quarrel between King and Parliament was indeed a split within the ruling elites, it was the London crowds, not the elites, who drove Charles from his capital in 1642 and precipitated war. The armies facing the King later that year consisted largely of volunteers, and civil war was possible only because a significant proportion of citizens was politically aware and engaged.

The demise of Marxism, moreover, must not be allowed to marginalise the Levellers. Proto-democrats, not socialists, the Levellers insisted on the sovereignty of the people and a written constitution to make that revolutionary principle a reality.

Paradoxically, their deep suspicion of all central executive power, even the Westminster Parliament, makes them in part the forebears of the Conservative Right as well as the Labour Left, and their ideas on devolution have an obvious relevance and resonance today.

Yours sincerely,  
BERNARD CAPP,  
Department of History,  
University of Warwick,  
Coventry CV4 7AL,  
February 1.

## Wrong bark

From Mr Ian Brown

Sir, Your charming photograph of the youthful Prince Charles and Camilla Shand in Windsor Great Park (January 29) is not set against the bole of a "stout oak tree", *Quercus species*, but that of a massive beech, *Fagus sylvatica*. The coarse ridged bark of the oak is, as every schoolboy knows, wholly unsuitable for the carving of lovers' initials.

Yours etc,  
IAN BROWN,  
The Old Rectory,  
Smeethcott, Church Stretton,  
Shropshire SY6 6NX,  
January 30.

## Tailpiece

From Mr Jack Dudley

Sir, Thank you for the delightful picture of the new Bunny Girl on the front page today, Saturday. A nice change from the army of bottomless anorexics through which we are obliged to wade in the fashion pages.

Yours,  
JACK DUDLEY,  
24 Edlyn Close,  
Berkhamstead,  
Hertfordshire HP4 3PQ,  
January 30.

















BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1999

Markets stunned as Governor loses job to Soros aide after three weeks

# Brazil replaces new bank chief



Soros: real undervalued

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

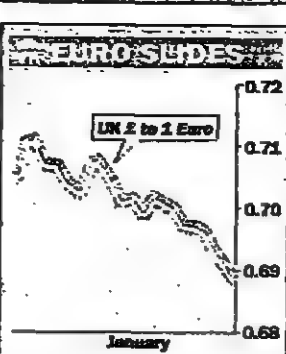
THE BRAZILIAN Government yesterday stunned international markets by sacking its Central Bank Governor for the second time in a month and naming a senior director from George Soros's investment company to the post.

Francisco Lopes is to step down as Governor only three weeks after replacing Gustavo Franco, in the wake of the Government's decision to float the Brazilian currency, the real.

He is to be replaced by Arminio Fraga, managing director of Soros Fund Management and a former director of International Affairs at the Brazilian Central Bank.

The appointment comes after a week of heated speculation over the future of both Senhor Lopes and Pedro Malan, the Brazilian Finance Minister. Rumours that Brazil was on the verge of imposing a freeze on bank accounts caused a run on deposits on

## EURO HITS LOW AGAINST STERLING



Friday sending the real to a record low.

Markets are also anxiously awaiting the outcome of talks between Senhor Malan and the International Monetary Fund over the release of its second \$9 billion instalment from a total \$41.5 billion rescue package.

Senhor Malan is known to have met Senhor Fraga at the end of last week, although at the time the Government said that

the next two days, trading was largely muted. The euro later recovered to close marginally up on the day at 68.98p.

The Federal Open Market Committee will make its decision today, with interest rates expected to be left on hold after unexpectedly strong fourth-quarter GDP growth. The European Central Bank is also expected to leave rates unchanged. But the market believes that the Bank of England will cut rates tomorrow.

Mr Soros claimed that the decision to raise interest rates after floating the currency was "a disastrous move" and called on the International Monetary Fund and Western governments to provide a "wall of money" to help to stabilise the

Brazilian economy. The billionaire speculator added that the real was now heavily undervalued. He has not revealed the extent of his investments in Brazil, but first employed Senhor Fraga in 1993 to help to build up his exposure to the region.

Analysts gave Senhor Fraga's appointment a warm welcome claiming he has practical experience of working in volatile markets and is well known in international financial circles.

But there was concern that he might face a bumpy ride in the Brazilian Congress, which will have to confirm the appointment. Senators are unlikely to be impressed by Senhor Fraga's links with Mr Soros, the world's best-known financial speculator.

The surprise move caused immediate wobbles in Brazilian markets as traders digested the news. Shares fell more than 3 per cent in the first hour of trading before sending about 2 per cent lower. The real slid from 1.75 to 1.84 to the dollar, but closed back at 1.75.

Commentary, page 23



Lopes stepping down

## Business Today

Commentary: Lifeblood of the economy 23  
Stock Market: AIB bid talk boosts banks 24  
Equity prices: 27  
Unit trusts: 26



Entrepreneur of the year  
The search is under way for the best of British talent

page 25

# Maxwell's auditor admits 'we fell short'

By ROBERT BRUCE AND JON ASHWORTH

THE former auditor to companies controlled by the late Robert Maxwell finally came clean yesterday, admitting that it had fallen "short of standards" in auditing the accounts of the late publishing tycoon.

The firm, Coopers & Lybrand, which became Price WaterhouseCoopers (PwC) on merging with Price Waterhouse last year, was yesterday censured, fined £1.2 million and ordered to pay costs of £2.1 million over failings in its auditing of the Maxwell group of companies by accountancy profession regulators. The penalties are the biggest ever levied against an accountancy firm.

Accepting all the findings against the firm, Peter Hazell, managing partner of PwC, admitted: "We fell short of the standards we set ourselves. We lacked objectivity and scepticism. We accept that." In addition to the penalties against the firm, four partners, all still with PwC, were also criticised.

John Cowling, the engagement partner for London and Bishopsgate International Investment Management and for First Tokyo Index Trust, both Maxwell funds, was censured and fined £11,050 plus costs of £75,000. Other partners, Stephen Wootton and Nicholas Parker, were admonished and ordered to pay £10,000 each in costs over their roles while another partner Ian Store was ordered to pay £5,000 in costs.

The Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), which polices the accountancy profession, found that Coopers "lost the plot" in its dealings with the Maxwell companies. The firm admitted that it failed to consider evidence of fraud or other

wrongdoings as of August 1991 — three months before Maxwell died.

A lack of objectivity in dealing with Maxwell and his companies lay at the heart of many of the complaints against Coopers. "The complaints reveal shortcomings in both vigilance and diligence and a failure to achieve an appropriate degree of objectivity and scepticism, which might have led to an earlier recognition and exposure of the reality of what was occurring," the JDS report said.

They included such issues as failing to ensure that huge unsecured loans of pension fund assets to Maxwell's private companies were disclosed in public company accounts and reported to Inro, the investment management regulatory organisation; failing to consider, despite all the evidence, whether there was evidence of fraud and unlawful acts that would have required "whistleblowing"; and failing to qualify crucial public company accounts.

The firm's lead partner on the work, Peter Walsh, who has since died, is described as being of "the old school" and in awe of Maxwell, whose ultimate depredations were, for him, "perplexing and out of character." Coopers compounded this problem by understating the work and not providing enough people who had relevant experience.

One manager's notes in an assessment of the control environment are quoted in the report as saying "board and management one and the same, no internal independent review and there are not enough junior staff to allow senior staff a purely review role".



Vernon Sankey is leaving the group he joined in 1971 after seven years as chief executive

## Launch of euro lifts Liffe trade

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE launch of the euro boosted trading volumes at Liffe, London's futures exchange, by 47 per cent last month.

The total value of contracts traded at the exchange reached £4.716 billion in January, compared with £3.227 billion in the previous month. However, on a year-on-year basis, trading volumes during the month were down 6 per cent. Trading levels were boosted because of the introduction of futures contracts based on Eurobor.

Hugh Freeburg, Liffe's chief executive, said: "Liffe's Eurobor Futures contract has grown from zero to £403 billion open interest, making it the most successful launch ever of a financial futures contract. Liffe's Eurobor contract has been regularly breaking records and on January 27, set a new record trading £122 billion." It was feared that Liffe would lose business to other futures markets in Europe as the UK had opted out of the single currency.

## Reckitt & Colman to offer Sankey payoff of £900,000

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

VERNON SANKEY is to part company with Reckitt & Colman, the Dettol-to-Lemsip group where he has been chief executive for seven years and where he has been employed since 1971.

Mr Sankey, who was paid £500,000 last year, is expected to receive about £900,000 compensation for the loss of his job. In a statement Reckitt & Colman said that the next phase of its strategy "requires the appointment of a new chief executive".

Shares in the company shot 50p higher to close at 870p on renewed speculation that the company could face a bid. Unilever, cash-rich after the sale of its speciality chemicals business to ICI and which is keen to build its stable of consumer brands, is seen as the most likely bidder.

Michael Turrell, director for global operations, has been made acting chief executive with immediate effect. He may be confirmed in the job, although the company is also hiring headhunters in its quest for a permanent replacement. Mr Sankey will stay on the board for a two-month hand-over period.

Reckitt & Colman issued a profits warning in November, complaining that trading results were below expectations because of problems in Asia and the US. Brokers have recently made further downgrades of their profit forecasts because of worries about sales of the company's products in Brazil.

Mr Sankey, 49, has thoroughly restructured the group during his time in charge, focusing on over-the-counter medicines and branded household goods. Reckitt said yesterday that its strategy remained unchanged.

# Fed moves on hedge funds

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

THE Federal Reserve has ordered US banks to keep a tighter rein on hedge funds after the Long Term Capital Management disaster last year.

In the first concrete step to regulate hedge funds, the Fed ruled that banks need to know the risks taken by fund managers before lending them money. The Fed called for a dual system of internal and independent risk measurements at the banks.

The order was issued as LTCM announced Nobel prize winner Myron Scholes and William Krasker, two of the fund's original partners, were retiring.

The near-collapse of LTCM last autumn led to fears of a systemic risk to the world economy and triggered a \$3.6 billion (£2.18 billion) bailout by 14 Wall Street banks.

Most of the banks had been business partners of the fund that was run by a motley crew of star traders and Nobel laureates. Wall Street chiefs had been so impressed by their credentials that they failed to check the risks involved.

A Washington committee of Wall Street bankers and finance experts is currently working on guidelines for hedge funds. At the height of its troubles, the LTCM is believed to have borrowed \$100 for every \$1 it owned.

## US RATE

Federal Funds	4 3/4%	(5%)
Long bond	100 1/4%	(101 1/4%)
Yield	5.24%	(5.18%)

## LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	8 1/2%	(8 1/4%)
Life long oil	119.89	(120.00)

## STERLING

New York	1.4435	(1.4420)
London	1.5480	(1.5405)
€	1.4498	(1.4512)
Yen	112.04	(112.00)
S index	100.7	(100.5)

## DOLLAR

London	1.1328	(1.1304)
SP	1.4110	(1.4220)
Yen	112.04	(112.00)
S index	104.5	(105.2)

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (15-day/Apr)	\$10.90	(\$11.00)
--------------------	---------	-----------

## GOLD

London close	\$288.48	(\$287.50)
--------------	----------	------------

# Half a million ignore tax Hectoring

By CAROLINE MERRELL



Hector the tax inspector

MORE than half a million people could be fined up to a total of £50 million by the Inland Revenue after failing to file their tax returns by the end-of-year deadline at the weekend.

In total, nine million tax forms were due from taxpayers working under the new self-assessment rules. The Inland Revenue said yesterday that it had received only 8.2 million returns from this total. Last year, 1.1 million tax forms failed to reach the Inland Revenue's offices on time, and a total

of 820,000 people were fined. The revenue said yesterday that 300,000 of these tax forms were still outstanding.

Those who missed the deadline will face an automatic fine of up to £100, while those who missed last year's deadline, and still have not submitted the form, face paying another £100 penalty.

"Overall the results of the second year of self-assessment are encouraging and they show that both taxpayers and their advisers are becoming more familiar with the new system," said an Inland Revenue

spokesman. But although more taxpayers are hitting the deadlines, evidence from this year suggest many are still leaving it until the last minute, with one million taxpayers submitting their forms on Saturday or Sunday.

The 650,000 who failed to submit forms will be fined according to how much tax they owe. A spokesman said that only the critically ill would escape the fine. Those who owe less than £100 in tax would not have to pay the full penalty for the missed deadline. As well as the one-off penalty, any unpaid

tax would be subject to interest payments at a rate of 8.5 per cent on the outstanding tax.

A recent report from the Inland Revenue revealed that the total cost of introducing the self-assessment tax regime was about £800 million. The exercise involved a £60 million training programme to help staff in 600 offices get to grips with the new regime.

LINKS  
http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/tax

# Managerial vacancy?

Miracle workers we may not be, but with Michael Page Finance on the team you can be confident of a damned good match.

FINANCIAL

For all your difficult appointments (in this life and the next), please contact

0845 600 7007

Michael Page

FINANCE

www.michaelpage.com

Australia • China • France • Germany • Hong Kong • Italy  
Netherlands • New Zealand • Singapore • Spain • UK • USA



## ARM up on profits increase

Shares in ARM Holdings, the microprocessor designer floated at 800p last April, rose 100p yesterday to close at £18.25 after the company announced better than expected profits. Profits for the year to December 31 more than doubled to £9.4 million, from £4.5 million. Earnings per share were 12.5p (7.4p). There is no dividend. *Tempos, page 24*

## US bus buy

National Express has bought a second US school bus company. It is to pay £15 million for Robinson Bus Service, which runs 11 routes in Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia and made £1.1 million profits on £14 million sales in its latest year. National paid £11.6 million for Crabtree-Harmon in Missouri four months ago.

## Staffware warning

Paul Fullagar and John O'Connell, chairman and chief executive of Staffware, an AIM-listed software company, yesterday saw their shares fall 27p to 190p, after the company warned of a profit warning on rising marketing costs. Over 12 months, they have fallen from 945p to 190p.

## Debenhams sale

Terry Green, chief executive of Debenhams, has sold £109,950 worth of shares in it, the department store company said yesterday. The sale of 30,000 shares at 366p on Monday leaves him with 50,427 shares, a 0.013 per cent stake. Debenhams shares still rose yesterday from 350p to 379p on a recommendation upgrade from Merrill Lynch.

## DeVilbiss referral

Kim Howells, Competition Minister, has referred a proposed acquisition of DeVilbiss Medequip by Air Products and Chemicals to the Monopolies Commission after Office of Fair Trading advice on the market for oxygen concentrators in the UK. It is due to report by May 7.

## Radio venture

Kelvin MacKenzie, chief executive of Talk Radio, has linked up with Chris Evans, the broadcaster, and Clear Channel, a US media group, to bid for regional digital radio licences. Bids for the first such licence, for Greater London, must be made by May.

# 'Symbol of rebirth' for Ulster calls in receivers

By ADAM JONES

MACKIE INTERNATIONAL, the company once held up by President Clinton as a 'symbol of Northern Ireland's rebirth', has called in the receivers, jeopardising about 310 jobs and £32 million of public money.

The West Belfast engineer was founded in the 1840s, making it one of the Province's oldest companies. It made machinery for the textiles industry but was trying desperately to diversify into castings and machine parts as clothmaking struggled.

Mackie was the setting for President Clinton's keynote speech during his visit to Northern Ireland in December 1995. He praised the co-operation of Catholic and Protestant workers on the shop floor.

He said Mackie had long been a symbol of world-class engineering: 'The textile machines you make permit people to weave disparate threads into remarkable fabrics. That is now what you must do here in Northern Ireland.'

Mackie's stock market history was turbulent, however. It listed in 1994 and its shares peaked at 159p in 1996. Its 1996 annual results had to be revised. What had been a £400,000 profit had to be changed to a £7.2 million loss. The executive chairman at the time, Paul Dougan, and the fi-

nanee director, Shaun Harrie, a former DeLorean Motor Company director, left the company.

A £5 million rights issue then flopped in August 1997. The shares were suspended at 9p last October when it said it was close to making an acquisition. The company it was chasing turned out to be Shield, an engineer based in Leicester.

Shield was wanted for its order book but Mackie could not raise the necessary £14 million. A spokeswoman for Mackie said yesterday that it needed just £500,000 more to do the deal. However, it is thought that some of the bid would have been funded in shares.

Deloitte & Touche, the accountant, was called in as administrative receiver yesterday by Ulster Bank, a subsidiary of NatWest. The Deloitte team is headed by Roger Powdrill and Tom Keenan.

Mackie owes £18.3 million. Attempts to save the business are likely to centre on its newest foundry, which cost £15 million and opened in 1996. It is thought that foreign buyers will be approached. Since 1990, the Industrial Development Board of Northern Ireland has pumped £32 million into Mackie to keep it afloat.

Commentary, page 23



Sir Neville Simms says he is revealing Tarmac's value

## Chief agrees to split Tarmac

By FRASER NELSON

SIR NEVILLE SIMMS, chief executive of Tarmac, has agreed to split the company in two — howing to shareholders who demanded action after its failed merger talks with the rival Aggregate Industries.

Tarmac's construction division, which is carrying out £1 billion of Private Finance Initiative work for the Government, is to be split from the heavy building materials division in the autumn.

City analysts believe that Sir Neville is preparing the remaining Tarmac for a merger, either as the dominant partner with Aggregate Industries or with another rival.

Sir Neville said: 'The City will be able to see the true value of both businesses, and there will be no more stories about how Tarmac Construction is worth nothing. They will be able to merge or make partnerships without worrying about the other one.'

Analysts believe that the construction division would need a heavy injection of capital to become independent.

Aggregate Industries, which six weeks ago broke off takeover talks, had meant to spin off Tarmac's construction division if the merger succeeded.

Tarmac Construction generates 57 per cent of group sales, but only 17 per cent of profits. Sir Neville said it may be sold and demerged simultaneously. The Tarmac name will stay with the building materials division. Demerger details will be given on March 16.

Tarmac shares rose 4½p to 75p yesterday.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## British Energy set to confound City

BRITISH ENERGY yesterday surprised the City with an upbeat forecast of its results, saying pre-tax profits would beat expectations at more than £270 million. Some analysts had pencilled in estimates of about £240 million compared with last year's profits of £191 million. Its shares climbed 27p to 723½p after the nuclear generator said it had boosted output by 3.9 per cent over the past year. It said it would exceed analysts' forecasts for the results — that are published in May — if inflation did not jump above 3 per cent and if there are no sudden shutdowns at its power stations.

The market is trying to predict British Energy's next significant move. It was beaten by Electricité de France in the bid battle for London Electricity but the company has made clear its wish to expand its generation by trying to buy coal-fired stations from PowerGen and National Power.

## Granada pay protest

GERRY ROBINSON, chairman of Granada, and other executive directors will face a 'fat cats' protest today as they arrive for a shareholders meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London. Broadcasting unions that have battled for strike action throughout Granada Media plan to deliver bags full of artificial money to highlight what they see as the disparity between the 14 per cent pay rises of the executive directors and the staff pay award of 3.6 per cent.

## Lafarge rises 53%

LAFARGE GROUP, the building materials group that bought Redland in 1997, yesterday said that 1998 sales were up 53 per cent to £9.8 billion (£6.8 billion). Excluding results from Redland, the rise was 8 per cent. Sales posted by former Redland units over the whole year were £2.9 billion, an increase of 3 per cent on 1997 or a 1 per cent increase on the same reporting basis. Lafarge said that it saw a slight increase in business in Western Europe.

## RBS raises \$250m

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND has raised \$250 million (£156 million) in preference shares in US markets to bolster its capital base. The bank said the preference share issue would lift its tier 1 capital ratio by 0.3 percentage points from the 6.6 per cent reported with its year-end profits at the end of September. Its capital base was slightly diluted by its recent purchase of the remaining 23.5 per cent stake in Citizens, its US subsidiary. Raising money in the US helps to balance its international books.

## ITG plans Net service

AN INTERNET service provider is in talks with retailers and media groups to launch rival services to Dions's Freeview. Internet Technology Group, which has partnerships with telecoms groups such as Energis, WorldCom and Cable & Wireless, also reported maiden profits, turning a £2 million loss the previous year into a £33,000 pre-tax surplus for the 12 months to October 31. Sales were £11 million, up from £4 million, while earnings per share were 0.12p (6.61p loss).

## Caradon sells Terrain

CARADON, the building products group, has furthered its disposal programme with the sale of Terrain, its plastic pipes business, for £27 million. The sale was flagged last year by Jürgen Hintz, chief executive, who wants the group to focus on plumbing, electrical controls and printing personalised cheque books. Terrain made £1.2 million profit from revenues of £25.5 million last year. Caradon also wants to sell its US and UK doors and windows businesses and its UK steel lintels business.

## Arjo revenue falls

ARJO WIGGINS APPLETON, the paper group, said that revenue fell 3.6 per cent in the December quarter to £813.6 million. The company said that volumes were 2.8 per cent lower than in the same period a year earlier and that prices also dropped. This took revenue for 1998 to £3.18 billion, down 2.6 per cent. Ken Minton, chairman, said that a strategic committee had been created to determine growth prospects for the group's three divisions and how they should be split.

## Eurodis sales decline

EURODIS ELECTRON, the electronic component distributor, yesterday said that a weak UK market and slower growth in mainland Europe were to blame for falling sales. The group reported pre-tax profits of £3.4 million for the six months to November 30 (£3.6 million) from sales that fell to £146.3 million (£152.5 million). Earnings were down to 2.79p a share (3.44p), but the interim dividend of 2.15p was maintained. The shares, which were 185½p last May, yesterday fell 5½p to 67p.

## SOMI wins contract

AN AIM-LISTED sports advertising group backed by John Backwith, the property entrepreneur, said yesterday that it had signed up to advise the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) 'on all aspects of its commercial activities'. Sports & Outdoor Media International said that it would give advice on sponsorship rights and perimeter advertising hoardings at Test cricket grounds under a contract that is expected to generate £80 million for the ECB.

## Unigate buys Wessex

UNIGATE, the dairy company, has agreed to buy the doorstep milk delivery business of Wessex Dairies for £7 million in cash. The acquisition, dependent on approval from the Office of Fair Trading, includes 20 milk delivery depots serving more than 150,000 customers, mostly in the West of England, with annual turnover of £25 million. Chris Roberts, managing director of Unigate Dairies, said: 'This acquisition again demonstrates our commitment to doorstep delivery.'

## Edmonds mobile call

DAVID EDMONDS, the Director-General of Telecommunications, called on Britain's four mobile telephone operators to come up with clear information on the quality of their services after his own survey revealed wide variations in call success rates (Raymond Snoddy writes).

A survey by the regulator, which was carried out in December by independent consultants, revealed differing success rates that were dependent on geography and mode of transport.

The survey found that on four rail routes tested, Orange performed best

with an 89 per cent success rate, followed by Cellnet (79 per cent), One2One (78 per cent) and Vodafone (73 per cent). In the City of London all networks performed well, with Orange again coming top with a 98 per cent success rate.

Mr Edmonds said yesterday that more comprehensive data was now required. He gave warning that if the mobile operators did not start providing greater information for customers he would consider further use of his statutory powers to ensure it happened.

## Pakistan hits Hub

HUB POWER, a Pakistani power generator in which National Power has a 26 per cent stake, yesterday had its bank accounts frozen in a dramatic escalation of its long-running dispute with state authorities (Saeed Shah writes).

National Power has taken a hit of £25 million in its interim results as a result of losses at Hubco and Kot Addu, its other power project in Pakistan, with analysts predicting further decreases as the dispute surrounding its previously lucrative Pakistani investments drags on. The Pakistani Government has frozen

Hubco's bank accounts after it refused to pay a two billion rupee (£23.5 million) demand for withholding tax on shares issued over the past few years. Kurshid Hussain, chief executive of Hubco, says no such tax exists and that the company will appeal.

Islamabad accuses Hubco of corruption and overcharging customers, allegations that the company has denied.

National Power paid \$101 million (£61 million) for its Hubco holding, and it invested \$291 million for a 36 per cent stake in Kot Addu.

## BAT ruling overturned on appeal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

A FLORIDA court has overturned a landmark anti-smoking ruling against British American Tobacco that had threatened to trigger a flood of costly claims.

The state appeals court has ruled that the case, in which the family of Roland Maddox, a smoker who died of cancer, won \$11 million damages from BAT last year, had been riddled with errors. It was found that the case had been heard by the wrong court and had made illegitimate use of BAT documents.

The Maddox family were recipients of the first million-dollar payout in a product liability case against a US tobacco company. The ruling was hailed as a breakthrough by anti-smoking campaigners. Thousands of other smokers and their families had hoped the case would set a precedent for further payouts to sufferers of tobacco-related illnesses.

Brown & Williamson, the BAT subsidiary that manufactures Lucky Strike cigarettes, said the volte face by the Florida courts was a 'huge victory'.

The overturning of the Maddox verdict comes after the collapse of several other cases against tobacco companies over the issue of smokers' health.

## American regulator attacks SB

By PAUL DURMAN

THE US Food and Drug Administration has severely criticised SmithKline Beecham for serious and persistent failures in hygiene standards at a Pennsylvania manufacturing plant.

In its strongly worded warning letter to Jan Leschly, America's medicines watchdog holds the SB chief executive personally responsible for the 'significant deviations from Current Good Manufacturing Practices'. It says: 'As top management, the responsibility to ensure that all requirements of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and its associated regulations are met belongs to you.'

The letter, sent last month, continues: 'Failure to promptly take corrective action may result in regulatory action without further notice. Possible actions include seizure and/or injunction. Also, the Philadelphia District Office will recommend disapproval of any new applications listing your firm as the manufacturer of sterile drug products.'

It is rare for a leading drugs group to receive an FDA warning letter. Shares in SB, which is hoping for rapid approval of its new diabetes drug, dropped 28½p to 819½p yesterday.

## Bank warns of gilt yield threat to OAPs

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

GILT YIELDS could fall to a record low of 2 per cent in the next few years, pushing many new pensioners into a life of poverty, according to a new report from Barclays Capital.

The investment bank believes demographic factors are starting to push down returns from all financial assets, including stocks and shares, as an increasing number of people begin to look for ways of saving for their retirement.

As financial returns slide people will have to put more money aside for their old age.

This could significantly reduce consumer spending and worsen the deflationary spiral in the economy, the bank's annual *Equity-Gilt Study* suggests.

Barclays Capital believes that yields on government bonds will be particularly depressed as inflation continues to fall.

This is bad news for people approaching retirement for whom gilt yields are significant as they determine how much of a pension income they will get when they purchase an annuity from an insurance company. Gilt yields are currently at a postwar low of about 4 per cent, leaving new pensioners with half the income they could have received ten years ago.

Fortunately, the soaring value of gilts and bonds — which is responsible for the dramatic slide in their yields during the 1990s — means many new pensioners will have amassed much larger pensions funds than they might have expected.

As a result they may be able to offset the fall in annuity rates.

## EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.67	2.69
Austria Sch	20.96	19.30
Belgium F	81.70	83.74
Canada Cdn	2.08	2.420
Denmark Kr	0.0862	0.8327
France F	11.38	10.49
Germany DM	5.81	5.20
Italy Lit	8.11	16.42
Japan Yen	9.00	12.38
Netherlands Gld	4.81	4.82
New Zealand \$	13.58	12.38
Portugal Esc	127	107
Spain Pes	160.21	130.21
Sweden Kr	1.15	1.078
Switzerland F	1.06	1.24
Taiwan NT\$	2.475	2.257
Turkey Lira	567.04	520.94
USA \$	1.78	1.69

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & GENERAL FAMILY PROTECTION PLAN

**Up to £300,000 FREE**  
Accidental Death Cover  
Call now for more details

# life assurance?

Here's a low-cost alternative.

**£53,200 of life cover for just 20p a day**

Introducing low-cost term assurance from Legal & General.

Wouldn't it make sense to pay for life assurance only when you really need it? When your children are growing up, for example. Now you can, with the Legal & General Family Protection Plan.

For just 20p a day (subject to individual details), the lump sum is paid should you die during the term of the policy. For that premium,

a non-smoking man aged 30 could get £53,200 of cover for 15 years.

But the real advantage is you choose the term of the policy and the amount of cover you require or the monthly contribution that suits you.

So if you'd prefer life assurance that isn't a lifetime commitment, call 0500 33 66 66 or send for your personal, no-obligation quote today.

*\*Equivalent to £6.08 a month.*

Other options available include Terminal Illness Cover, Critical Illness Cover, Indemnity and Waiver of Premium. Minimum premium of £5.00 per month equates to 7p a day. The Family Protection Plan is provided by Legal & General Assurance Society Limited. Full version details available on request. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick the box in the coupon. For your protection, calls are usually recorded and randomly monitored. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority and FSA for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General name. Legal & General Direct Limited, registered in England No. 2712980, Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

**free £10 Interflora voucher**

Please send me a personal quotation and information pack on the Legal & General Family Protection Plan.  
Post to: Legal & General, FREEPOST (SWC 0467), Cardiff CF1 1YW

Surname (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms/Ms)  
Firstname(s)  
Address  
Postcode  
Tel No. Home  
Tel No. Work  
Date of Birth  
I am a smoker ☐ Non-smoker ☐  
Cover required £  
Term required (minimum 1 year) Years

**Call now for an instant quote**

**0500 33 66 66**

**Legal & General**  
trust us to deliver

Profit on debt



# The lifeblood of the economy



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Entrepreneurs provide the lifeblood of the economy. From small, energetic businesses can larger companies grow, creating the jobs essential to the country's prosperity. Big businesses, meanwhile, are either becoming even bigger, indulging in the latest round of mega-mergers in the hope that two sets of profits can be sustained on less than two sets of staff, or they are turning into smaller businesses themselves, subjected to enforced slimming regimes in the hope of sustaining long-term health.

The Times recognises the importance of the entrepreneurial spirit and today we announce the launch of an initiative to reward the best of Britain's entrepreneurs. The search will range widely, with regional finals leading to the selection of national winners in several different categories. And because the Entrepreneur of the Year programme is being led by Ernst & Young, there is an added international dimension. The ultimate British winner could find himself — or herself — an increasing number of entrepreneurs are female — at a conference in the US comparing notes with the winners of contests held in 20 different countries.

The chance to talk with others who are battling to build businesses is one that most entrepreneurs would appreciate, for they can find there a lonely existence. Politicians are a force for good and say so, often and loudly. "We will

lead a crusade to develop in Britain the spirit of enterprise, so characteristic of the United States, so that we seize the new, big opportunities before us," declared Peter Mandelson before his abrupt departure from the Department of Trade and Industry. His sentiments could have been uttered by any of his Tory predecessors or by Stephen Byers, the current incumbent.

But actions to aid the lot of entrepreneurs flow less freely than the warm words. Red tape remains a multiplying problem, despite the establishment of various task forces promising to wield shears. The CBI recently begged for more cuts in the bureaucratic burdens that hamper business.

McKinsey, when set to work by the Chancellor to determine why British productivity lagged behind that of Germany and the US, cited red tape, including planning restrictions, as a significant drag. Yet, aided by Brussels, the Government seems intent on tying up business with more rules and regulation. While this is a nuisance for large firms, for smaller organisations, with only a handful of staff working flat out, it can be lethal. Small firms flourish only by being fast and flexible, responding to changes in the marketplace almost before

they have happened. The impositions of the Working Time Directive and the minimum wage can only make them less fleet of foot.

However, in our search for the Entrepreneur of the Year, we will seek out those who fail to be deterred by the difficulties of running a business. There are some great successes who have triumphed against the obstacles. Their stories will make encouraging reading.

## Brazil tries Sorosisation

Smash and grab raids by Western speculators have obliged governments in three continents and many languages to agree that if you cannot beat them, you had probably better join them. Only Malaysia is holding out but the internal antics of Mahathir Mohamed, its Prime Minister, ruined his case. In South America, both Brazil and Argentina have had to dance to the IMF tune. Even in their re-

sponses to the slump-bearing forces of markets, however, the rival giants are competing.

From the last time, Argentina was committed to a dollar-linked currency board system. It outflanked speculators trying to break that link by threatening to ditch its currency altogether and adopt the US dollar as its own.

Brazil's Fernando Cardoso, the John Major of Latin America, could not match that after seeing the fruits of his "hard real" policy disappear in the dust thrown up by departing foreign investors. Even devaluation had to be abandoned in favour of a freely sinking currency, down a third since mid-January.

So the world's eighth biggest economy has opted for the next best thing. Instead of dollarisation, try Sorosisation. Arminio Fraga, an aide of the great hypocrite, is to be installed as head of Brazil's central bank.

He has credibility with the markets, they say. By sheer coincidence, George Soros was showing his caring face in Davos just

as Mr Fraga was receiving his charge from Pedro Malan, the Finance Minister. Mr Soros was rightly berating the vain attempt to shore up the real by measures of such austerity, including high interest rates, that depression was certain.

Now that the real is floating, interest rates are still running at 39 per cent. While the hard real policy lasted, it did a fine job of eliminating Brazil's notorious high inflation and raising real incomes for ordinary people. Brazil is still at risk of inflation returning.

The country does not, however, need any increase in austerity. The trailed doubling of interest rates would just bring a downward spiral of budgetary deficits, undoing hard-won fiscal gains.

Mr Soros knows this. Mr Malan knows this and presumably so does Mr Fraga. It will be interesting to see if they agree with Stanley Fischer, IMF number two, who is now in Brasilia to negotiate conditions for the release of the next instalment of the \$41.5 billion loan agreed last Novem-

ber to forestall devaluation. In Brazil, as almost everywhere, the top priority is to stop recession and get growth moving again, in part through monetary policy.

As it happens, Mr Fraga agrees with Argentina that there are too many currencies, but that will have to come later.

## No longer as hot as mustard

Vernon Sankey's departure from Reckitt & Colman after no less than 28 years and seven years as chief executive, took the market quite by surprise. Although he had to deliver a profits warning in November, and has been castigated for not managing expectations better, many other chief executives have found themselves in similar positions recently and have managed to hang on to their jobs if not all of their reputations.

Reckitt is certainly in a difficult bind. Its expansion in some emerging markets has left it vulnerable to the woes of their economies, while it has been caught out by US retailers' increasing insistence on just-in-time ordering. Even without Colman or Reckitt, it still has a fine portfolio of brands, which are undoubtedly

attractive to bigger multinational competitors. Reckitt's disadvantage is that while it is large, it is not so large that a group like Unilever or Sara Lee might not find it relatively easy to buy. Expectations that a deal is pending made the shares leap yesterday.

In the absence of a clear explanation, it does not take a very vivid imagination to conclude that Mr Sankey and his fellow directors did not see eye to eye on how Reckitt should manage its way out of its corner, alone or by merger; with a new strategy, or its current one. For the future, Mr Sankey may feel he does not have much to lose by going. After all, Barclays, BPB, EMI, Cable & Wireless, et al, are all on the look out for experienced chief executives, previous incumbents having failed to cut the mustard.

## False dawn

WORDS are cheap but reality is harsh. Three years ago, textile engineer Mackie International was hailed by Bill Clinton as the symbol of co-operation across the divide in the new Northern Ireland. Yesterday, receivers were called in. Let us hope that has none of the symbolism America's President offered so freely. No one makes a profit, any more than they can make a peaceful future, merely with good intentions. Mackie was in the wrong business, in the wrong place with the wrong management. Even with a true peace, Ulster will have to fight hard for prosperity.

## Weir shares surge on bid approach

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

SHARES of Weir Group, the pump manufacturer based in Glasgow, yesterday leapt 27 per cent to 294½p, after the company confirmed it had received an approach that could lead to a takeover bid.

Market speculation about the likely predator focused on a range of leading American engineering companies, including ITT Industries, Flowserve, IDEX, Ingersoll Dresser IDP and Tectron.

ITT is believed to have had a long-standing interest in Weir, which intensified in the wake of ITT's purchase in 1997 of Gould, one of the Scottish company's largest competitors.

Yesterday's speculation lifted Weir's market capitalisation to £587 million and dragged up the rest of the engineering sector in its wake. The FTSE engineering sector index closed 4.9 per cent higher at 2,318.0 points compared with a rise of just 0.6 points in the FTSE 100 index to 6,013.0. Analysts said the engineering sector had been

largely ignored by investors who have been concentrating on more fashionable sectors such as telecoms.

Sandy Morris, an analyst with ABN Amro, said he believed any takeover suitor would have to bid at least 350p a share for Weir to stand a chance of success. The shares, however, were last at those levels five years ago.

"Weir has not performed badly or let us down, but it is where it is because it has not shown the zip, sparkle or vision that the market demands," Mr Morris said.

Analysts said the relatively low price/earnings multiples applied to British engineering stocks made them highly vulnerable to their more expensive counterparts in America.

They said that, as the seventh-largest pumpmaker in the world, it is almost inevitable that Weir will become part of the consolidation underway in the industry.

Tempus, page 24

## Armitage Shanks goes to US

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

ONE of the most quintessential of English brands fell into foreign hands yesterday as the 190-year-old Armitage Shanks company was sold to the US group American Standard.

Five months after putting it on the market, Blue Circle, the building materials group, said it was selling Armitage Shanks to the owner of Ideal Standard, its main bathrooms business rival, for £253 million.

The acquisition includes Ceramica Dolomite, Blue Circle's Italian bathroom fittings manufacturer and the combined operation will become Europe's largest bathrooms business. Ideal is thought to have beaten competition from a number of European bidders including Sanitec, a division of Finland's Metra, and Keramiek Lafen of Switzerland.

Roger Cooper, managing director of Ideal, said that it was too soon to comment on redundancy plans.

## Housing is recovering, says Crest

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

A STABLE housing market and an expanded portfolio helped to lift full-year profits of Crest Nicholson, the house-building and property group, by 37 per cent, to £28.1 million.

John Calcutt, chief executive, said that a surge in sales last month after an unusually quiet run-up to Christmas suggested that the housing market was in "recovery mode". He said: "Visitor levels are up, reservations are up."

Crest's average selling price rose by almost 20 per cent, to £117,800. Its land holding rose 27 per cent in 1998 to 17,253 plots. Its main 1998 acquisition was a site for 772 homes at Chigwell, Essex.

Sales for the year to October 31 rose 32 per cent to £465 million. Earnings per share rose to 16.6p, from 12.75p. A 32.5p final dividend makes 4.75p (3.75p).

Tempus, page 24

## Eurotunnel nets profit on debt

EUROTUNNEL, the Channel Tunnel operator, yesterday made an £89 million profit by taking advantage of the City's lack of confidence in its ability to repay its £7.2 billion debt mountain (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company spent £38 million buying £134 million of loan notes — using cash won from suing TML, the consortium that built the tunnel.

These loan notes changed hands at 26p for every £1 of its debt — a price that reflects fears that Eurotunnel's chances of defaulting are still high.

Shares of Eurotunnel added 4½p to 75½p yesterday, as analysts said the deal should reduce its interest payments by £1.3 million a year.

Eurotunnel was only able to buy back the loan notes because the money came directly from TML, which was collected in November after defects were found on freight trains.

The company is forbidden from spending its own cash-flow on buying loan notes under the debt for equity swap agreed with its banks in April last year.



"Here in Milton  
Keynes, most  
people would  
see this glass as  
half full."

Dynamic, modern, a magnet for young, qualified people who enjoy a new city

that has been built to work, Milton Keynes is

an international success story.

From its US style road grid that eliminates traffic jams to the hundreds of miles of

pedestrian walkways, cyclepaths and bridleways;

from its 4.5 million square feet of shopping

space to the 4 million trees planted throughout

the city; from a wealth of outdoor sporting

facilities to the well-equipped leisure

centres, Milton Keynes attracts people

who have a positive attitude about work

and play.

Find out how locating in Milton Keynes

can benefit your business.



To get there, talk to CNT on 01908 692692

Locations made for business success  
www.cnt.org.uk

Other CNT locations made for business success: Baskin Broadwell Central Lancashire Carby Crawley Harlow Hatfield Hemel Hempstead Northampton Peterborough Redditch Runcorn Sharncliffe Stevenage Telford Warrington Walsingham Welwyn Garden City



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# Talk of bid for AIB boosts banks sector

THE telephone lines between Dublin and London were running red hot with the speculators telling anyone who would listen that a bid is on the way for Allied Irish Banks.

Word is someone is poised to offer £15 a share, valuing the company at £1.12 billion. AIB finished 73p higher at £12.62, just below its best level of £13.94 last month. Turnover was on the high side with 3.68 million shares changing hands in a marketplace where traders are normally only willing to make a price and size in 15,000 at a time.

Brokers say suitors are likely to include the powerful Deutsche Bank and our own Lloyds TSB, up 14p at £17.7p. It could mark the first stage in the consolidation of the banking sector. The high street is over-run when it comes to banks and something has to give, say analysts.

A bid for AIB would follow close on the heels of the proposed merger between Paribas and Societe Generale, announced earlier this week.

Elsewhere in the banking sector gains were seen in Barclays, 68p to £14.59, Abbey National, 43p to £12.48, Bank of Scotland, 26p to 808p, NatWest, 41p to £11.96, and Royal Bank of Scotland, 47p to £11.45.

Second-line stocks continued to provide the driving force for the rest of the market. The FTSE 250 index finished the session 93.5 up at 5,215.3, while the FTSE 100 index rallied from a near 100-point fall to close just 0.6 up at 6,013.0. Total turnover was a healthy 1.2 billion shares, despite opening losses for the Dow Jones industrial average in New York.

Dealers say that demand for second-line issues remains strong as investors search for value. Stock shortages have combined with high levels of corporate activity to fuel many of the gains.

Daily Mail & General Trust, up 12p at £29.37, with the "A" down 4p at £31.96 is tipped as the front-runner to replace BTR, up 10p at £29.50, as a constituent of the top 100 companies. The vacancy opens up after BTR completes its merger with Siebe, 10p dearer at 240p.

The odds on a bid for BICC have shortened. The price raced up 10p to 74p on the news that Wassall, the industrial conglomerate, had raised its holding to 9.3 per cent and may



John Matthews, left, the chairman of Crest Nicholson, and John Calcott, chief executive, saw the shares put on 3 1/2p

consider making a full bid at some stage. No approach has, so far, been made in the BICC board. The cables and Balfour Beatty construction group has seen its price slump from a peak of 181p last year, making it vulnerable. A hefty 17.5 million shares were traded.

Speculative buying continued to hoist Pilkington higher with a rise of 2 1/2p to 67p.

Dealers say the collapse in the price from the 148p level last year has left the company vulnerable to a bid. The Prudential Corporation has raised its holding to 29.7 million, or 2.72 per cent.

Bid hopes are running high at Christian Salvesen, up 8p at 94p. Earlier this week, Veba, the German group, said it was paying £423 million for BTL.



IT HAS been a chill wind blowing through the clothing retailers of late. But things may be looking up.

Merrill Lynch, the broker, is becoming more upbeat. It has raised its medium-term recommendations on both Arcadia, up 18p to 186p, and Debenhams, 29p dearer at 379p, from "neutral" to "accumulate".

Its long-term view on Debenhams has been moved from "neutral" to "buy".

Merrill is also taking a more upbeat view of prospects for Next, 26p higher

at 664p, and has moved its recommendation from "reduce" to "neutral". It seems that trading conditions cannot get much worse for the clothes retailers and any pickup later this year at Arcadia will be underpinned by cost savings.

Meanwhile, Next should be able to take advantage of problems at Marks & Spencer, 5p cheaper at 355p, to grab market share. But Morgan Stanley has downgraded Next from "strong buy" to "outperform".

the Swedish transport company. Hayes, 14p firmer at 597p, is tipped as a likely suitor for the logistics specialist.

Interac advanced 7 1/2p to 62 1/2p amid claims that it may soon find itself on the receiving end of a bid. Word is an American buyer is ready to offer 85p a share.

Traders are bracing themselves for some imminent news from First Leisure, the nights and leisure group headed by Michael Grade. The shares raced up 14p to 202p last night amid hopes that a bid may be on the way. Last month the group said it was in "strategic talks". Bass, unchanged at 870p, remains favourite to make a move.

Crest Nicholson, 3 1/2p dearer at 125p, lived up to City expectations with a good set of full-year profits and upbeat comments about current trading. Dealers hope it may provide the basis for similar performance by other housebuilders such as Barrat Developments, up 27p at 250p, Berkeley Group, 11p at 303p, and Wimborne, 13p at 118p.

News of share-buying by the chairman enabled Uno to firm 3p to 36 1/2p.

Share purchases at Hazlewood Foods lifted the price 3 1/2p to 118p. Peter Barr, chairman, has picked up 50,000 shares at 115p. He now holds 4.26 million, or 1.8 per cent of the food supplier.

**GILT-EDGED:** Investors were in a cautious mood ahead of the start of this month's Monetary Policy Committee meeting. Prices opened lower and traded in narrow limits for much of the session before putting in a late run to close above their lows of the day.

Monday's comments from Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, at the Bankers' Club annual dinner were well received. He said the Bank must be prepared for a further easing of monetary policy if demand looked likely to fall short of expectations. Short dated issues responded positively.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 17p to £119.89 in thin trading. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021.

**NEW YORK:** Shares were sharply lower in late morning trading as investors took profits. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 118.95 at 9,226.75.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 9226.75 (-118.95)  
S&P Composite 1231.45 (-19.55)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 14349.83 (-115.35)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 9502.72 (-98.58)

Amsterdam:  
AEX Index 529.73 (-7.22)

Sydney:  
All Ordinaries 2507.00 (-16.70)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 5165.87 (-23.95)

Singapore:  
Straits Times 1359.59 (-20.28)

Brisbane:  
BSE200 3455.15 (-10.29)

Paris:  
CAC-40 4243.57 (-60.28)

Zurich:  
SIX 1479.00 (-0.80)

London:  
FTSE 100 6013.00 (+0.61)  
FTSE 250 5215.30 (+93.54)  
FTSE 350 2655.71 (+8.80)  
FTSE 1000 2611.24 (-22.02)  
FTSE 1000-100 2758.40 (+4.98)  
FTSE 1000-200 2623.52 (-2.81)  
FTSE 1000-300 2578.86 (-0.34)  
FTSE 1000-400 2533.53 (-0.53)  
FTSE 1000-500 2488.20 (-0.72)  
FTSE 1000-600 2442.87 (-0.91)  
FTSE 1000-700 2397.54 (-1.10)  
FTSE 1000-800 2352.21 (-1.29)  
FTSE 1000-900 2306.88 (-1.48)  
FTSE 1000-1000 2261.55 (-1.67)  
FTSE 1000-1100 2216.22 (-1.86)  
FTSE 1000-1200 2170.89 (-2.05)  
FTSE 1000-1300 2125.56 (-2.24)  
FTSE 1000-1400 2080.23 (-2.43)  
FTSE 1000-1500 2034.90 (-2.62)  
FTSE 1000-1600 1989.57 (-2.81)  
FTSE 1000-1700 1944.24 (-3.00)  
FTSE 1000-1800 1898.91 (-3.19)  
FTSE 1000-1900 1853.58 (-3.38)  
FTSE 1000-2000 1808.25 (-3.57)  
FTSE 1000-2100 1762.92 (-3.76)  
FTSE 1000-2200 1717.59 (-3.95)  
FTSE 1000-2300 1672.26 (-4.14)  
FTSE 1000-2400 1626.93 (-4.33)  
FTSE 1000-2500 1581.60 (-4.52)  
FTSE 1000-2600 1536.27 (-4.71)  
FTSE 1000-2700 1490.94 (-4.90)  
FTSE 1000-2800 1445.61 (-5.09)  
FTSE 1000-2900 1400.28 (-5.28)  
FTSE 1000-3000 1354.95 (-5.47)  
FTSE 1000-3100 1309.62 (-5.66)  
FTSE 1000-3200 1264.29 (-5.85)  
FTSE 1000-3300 1218.96 (-6.04)  
FTSE 1000-3400 1173.63 (-6.23)  
FTSE 1000-3500 1128.30 (-6.42)  
FTSE 1000-3600 1082.97 (-6.61)  
FTSE 1000-3700 1037.64 (-6.80)  
FTSE 1000-3800 992.31 (-6.99)  
FTSE 1000-3900 946.98 (-7.18)  
FTSE 1000-4000 901.65 (-7.37)  
FTSE 1000-4100 856.32 (-7.56)  
FTSE 1000-4200 810.99 (-7.75)  
FTSE 1000-4300 765.66 (-7.94)  
FTSE 1000-4400 720.33 (-8.13)  
FTSE 1000-4500 675.00 (-8.32)  
FTSE 1000-4600 629.67 (-8.51)  
FTSE 1000-4700 584.34 (-8.70)  
FTSE 1000-4800 539.01 (-8.89)  
FTSE 1000-4900 493.68 (-9.08)  
FTSE 1000-5000 448.35 (-9.27)  
FTSE 1000-5100 403.02 (-9.46)  
FTSE 1000-5200 357.69 (-9.65)  
FTSE 1000-5300 312.36 (-9.84)  
FTSE 1000-5400 267.03 (-10.03)  
FTSE 1000-5500 221.70 (-10.22)  
FTSE 1000-5600 176.37 (-10.41)  
FTSE 1000-5700 131.04 (-10.60)  
FTSE 1000-5800 85.71 (-10.79)  
FTSE 1000-5900 40.38 (-10.98)  
FTSE 1000-6000 0.00 (-11.17)

FTSE 1000-6100 0.00 (-11.36)  
FTSE 1000-6200 0.00 (-11.55)  
FTSE 1000-6300 0.00 (-11.74)  
FTSE 1000-6400 0.00 (-11.93)  
FTSE 1000-6500 0.00 (-12.12)  
FTSE 1000-6600 0.00 (-12.31)  
FTSE 1000-6700 0.00 (-12.50)  
FTSE 1000-6800 0.00 (-12.69)  
FTSE 1000-6900 0.00 (-12.88)  
FTSE 1000-7000 0.00 (-13.07)  
FTSE 1000-7100 0.00 (-13.26)  
FTSE 1000-7200 0.00 (-13.45)  
FTSE 1000-7300 0.00 (-13.64)  
FTSE 1000-7400 0.00 (-13.83)  
FTSE 1000-7500 0.00 (-14.02)  
FTSE 1000-7600 0.00 (-14.21)  
FTSE 1000-7700 0.00 (-14.40)  
FTSE 1000-7800 0.00 (-14.59)  
FTSE 1000-7900 0.00 (-14.78)  
FTSE 1000-8000 0.00 (-14.97)  
FTSE 1000-8100 0.00 (-15.16)  
FTSE 1000-8200 0.00 (-15.35)  
FTSE 1000-8300 0.00 (-15.54)  
FTSE 1000-8400 0.00 (-15.73)  
FTSE 1000-8500 0.00 (-15.92)  
FTSE 1000-8600 0.00 (-16.11)  
FTSE 1000-8700 0.00 (-16.30)  
FTSE 1000-8800 0.00 (-16.49)  
FTSE 1000-8900 0.00 (-16.68)  
FTSE 1000-9000 0.00 (-16.87)  
FTSE 1000-9100 0.00 (-17.06)  
FTSE 1000-9200 0.00 (-17.25)  
FTSE 1000-9300 0.00 (-17.44)  
FTSE 1000-9400 0.00 (-17.63)  
FTSE 1000-9500 0.00 (-17.82)  
FTSE 1000-9600 0.00 (-18.01)  
FTSE 1000-9700 0.00 (-18.20)  
FTSE 1000-9800 0.00 (-18.39)  
FTSE 1000-9900 0.00 (-18.58)  
FTSE 1000-10000 0.00 (-18.77)

FTSE 1000-10100 0.00 (-18.96)  
FTSE 1000-10200 0.00 (-19.15)  
FTSE 1000-10300 0.00 (-19.34)  
FTSE 1000-10400 0.00 (-19.53)  
FTSE 1000-10500 0.00 (-19.72)  
FTSE 1000-10600 0.00 (-19.91)  
FTSE 1000-10700 0.00 (-20.10)  
FTSE 1000-10800 0.00 (-20.29)  
FTSE 1000-10900 0.00 (-20.48)  
FTSE 1000-11000 0.00 (-20.67)  
FTSE 1000-11100 0.00 (-20.86)  
FTSE 1000-11200 0.00 (-21.05)  
FTSE 1000-11300 0.00 (-21.24)  
FTSE 1000-11400 0.00 (-21.43)  
FTSE 1000-11500 0.00 (-21.62)  
FTSE 1000-11600 0.00 (-21.81)  
FTSE 1000-11700 0.00 (-22.00)  
FTSE 1000-11800 0.00 (-22.19)  
FTSE 1000-11900 0.00 (-22.38)  
FTSE 1000-12000 0.00 (-22.57)  
FTSE 1000-12100 0.00 (-22.76)  
FTSE 1000-12200 0.00 (-22.95)  
FTSE 1000-12300 0.00 (-23.14)  
FTSE 1000-12400 0.00 (-23.33)  
FTSE 1000-12500 0.00 (-23.52)  
FTSE 1000-12600 0.00 (-23.71)  
FTSE 1000-12700 0.00 (-23.90)  
FTSE 1000-12800 0.00 (-24.09)  
FTSE 1000-12900 0.00 (-24.28)  
FTSE 1000-13000 0.00 (-24.47)  
FTSE 1000-13100 0.00 (-24.66)  
FTSE 1000-13200 0.00 (-24.85)  
FTSE 1000-13300 0.00 (-25.04)  
FTSE 1000-13400 0.00 (-25.23)  
FTSE 1000-13500 0.00 (-25.42)  
FTSE 1000-13600 0.00 (-25.61)  
FTSE 1000-13700 0.00 (-25.80)  
FTSE 1000-13800 0.00 (-25.99)  
FTSE 1000-13900 0.00 (-26.18)  
FTSE 1000-14000 0.00 (-26.37)  
FTSE 1000-14100 0.00 (-26.56)  
FTSE 1000-14200 0.00 (-26.75)  
FTSE 1000-14300 0.00 (-26.94)  
FTSE 1000-14400 0.00 (-27.13)  
FTSE 1000-14500 0.00 (-27.32)  
FTSE 1000-14600 0.00 (-27.51)  
FTSE 1000-14700 0.00 (-27.70)  
FTSE 1000-14800 0.00 (-27.89)  
FTSE 1000-14900 0.00 (-28.08)  
FTSE 1000-15000 0.00 (-28.27)  
FTSE 1000-15100 0.00 (-28.46)  
FTSE 1000-15200 0.00 (-28.65)  
FTSE 1000-15300 0.00 (-28.84)  
FTSE 1000-15400 0.00 (-29.03)  
FTSE 1000-15500 0.00 (-29.22)  
FTSE 1000-15600 0.00 (-29.41)  
FTSE 1000-15700 0.00 (-29.60)  
FTSE 1000-15800 0.00 (-29.79)  
FTSE 1000-15900 0.00 (-29.98)  
FTSE 1000-16000 0.00 (-30.17)  
FTSE 1000-16100 0.00 (-30.36)  
FTSE 1000-16200 0.00 (-30.55)  
FTSE 1000-16300 0.00 (-30.74)  
FTSE 1000-16400 0.00 (-30.93)  
FTSE 1000-16500 0.00 (-31.12)  
FTSE 1000-16600 0.00 (-31.31)  
FTSE 1000-16700 0.00 (-31.50)  
FTSE 1000-16800 0.00 (-31.69)  
FTSE 1000-16900 0.00 (-31.88)  
FTSE 1000-17000 0.00 (-32.07)  
FTSE 1000-17100 0.00 (-32.26)  
FTSE 1000-17200 0.00 (-32.45)  
FTSE 1000-17300 0.00 (-32.64)  
FTSE 1000-17400 0.00 (-32.83)  
FTSE 1000-17500 0.00 (-33.02)  
FTSE 1000-17600 0.00 (-33.21)  
FTSE 1000-17700 0.00 (-33.40)  
FTSE 1000-17800 0.00 (-33.59)  
FTSE 1000-17900 0.00 (-33.78)  
FTSE 1000-18000 0.00 (-33.97)  
FTSE 1000-18100 0.00 (-34.16)  
FTSE 1000-18200 0.00 (-34.35)  
FTSE 1000-18300 0.00 (-34.54)  
FTSE 1000-18400 0.00 (-34.73)  
FTSE 1000-18500 0.00 (-34.92)  
FTSE 1000-18600 0.00 (-35.11)  
FTSE 1000-18700 0.00 (-35.30)  
FTSE 1000-18800 0.00 (-35.49)  
FTSE 1000-18900 0.00 (-35.68)  
FTSE 1000-19000 0.00 (-35.87)  
FTSE 1000-19100 0.00 (-36.06)  
FTSE 1000-19200 0.00 (-36.25)  
FTSE 1000-19300 0.00 (-36.44)  
FTSE 1000-19400 0.00 (-36.63)  
FTSE 1000-19500 0.00 (-36.82)  
FTSE 1000-19600 0.00 (-37.01)  
FTSE 1000-19700 0.00 (-37.20)  
FTSE 1000-19800 0.00 (-37.39)  
FTSE 1000-19900 0.00 (-37.58)  
FTSE 1000-20000 0.00 (-37.77)  
FTSE 1000-20100 0.00 (-37.96)  
FTSE 1000-20200 0.00 (-38.15)  
FTSE 1000-20300 0.00 (-38.34)  
FTSE 1000-20400 0.00 (-38.53)  
FTSE 1000-20500 0.00 (-38.72)  
FTSE 1000-20600 0.00 (-38.91)  
FTSE 1000-20700 0.00 (-39.10)  
FTSE 1000-20800 0.00 (-39.29)  
FTSE 1000-20900 0.00 (-39.48)  
FTSE 1000-21000 0.00 (-39.67)  
FTSE 1000-21100 0.00 (-39.86)  
FTSE 1000-21200 0.00 (-40.05)  
FTSE 1000-21300 0.00 (-40.24)  
FTSE 1000-21400 0.00 (-40.43)  
FTSE 1000-21500 0.00 (-40.62)  
FTSE 1000-21600 0.00 (-40.81)  
FTSE 1000-21700 0.00 (-41.00)  
FTSE 1000-21800 0.00 (-41.19)  
FTSE 1000-21900 0.00 (-41.38)  
FTSE 1000-22000 0.00 (-41.57)  
FTSE 1000-22100 0.00 (-41.76)  
FTSE 1000-22200 0.00 (-41.95)  
FTSE 1000-22300 0.00 (-42.14)  
FTSE 1000-22400 0.00 (-42.33)  
FTSE 1000-22500 0.00 (-42.52)  
FTSE 1000-22600 0.00 (-42.71)  
FTSE 1000-22700 0.00 (-42.90)  
FTSE 1000-22800 0.00 (-43.09)  
FTSE 1000-22900 0.00 (-43.28)  
FTSE 1000-23000 0.00 (-43.47)  
FTSE 1000-23100 0.00 (-43.66)  
FTSE 1000-23200 0.00 (-43.85)  
FTSE 1000-23300 0.00 (-44.04)  
FTSE 1000-23400 0.00 (-44.23)  
FTSE 1000-23500 0.00 (-44.42)  
FTSE 1000-23600 0.00 (-44.61)  
FTSE 1000-23700 0.00 (-44.80)  
FTSE 1000-23800 0.00 (-44.99)  
FTSE 1000-23900 0.00 (-45.18)  
FTSE 1000-24000 0.00 (-45.37)  
FTSE 1000-24100 0.00 (-45.56)  
FTSE 1000-24200 0.00 (-45.75)  
FTSE 1000-24300 0.00 (-45.94)  
FTSE 1000-24400 0.00 (-46.13)  
FTSE 1000-24500 0.00 (-46.32)  
FTSE 1000-24600 0.00 (-46.51)  
FTSE 1000-24700 0.00 (-46.70)  
FTSE 1000-24800 0.00 (-46.89)  
FTSE 1000-24900 0.00 (-47.08)  
FTSE 1000-25000 0.00 (-47.27)  
FTSE 1000-25100 0.00 (-47.46)  
FTSE 1000-25200 0.00 (-47.65)  
FTSE 1000-25300 0.00 (-47.84)  
FTSE 1000-25400 0.00 (-48.03)  
FTSE 1000-25500 0.00 (-48.22)  
FTSE 1000-25600 0.00 (-48.41)  
FTSE 1000-25700 0.00 (-48.60)  
FTSE 1000-25800 0.00 (-48.79)  
FTSE 1000-25900 0.00 (-48.98)  
FTSE 1000-26000 0.00 (-49.17)  
FTSE 1000-26100 0.00 (-49.36)  
FTSE 1000-26200 0.00 (-49.55)  
FTSE 1000-26300 0.00 (-49.74)  
FTSE 1000-26400 0.00 (-49.93)  
FTSE 1000-26500 0.00 (-50.12)  
FTSE 1000-26600 0.00 (-50.31)  
FTSE 1000-26700 0.00 (-50.50)  
FTSE 1000-26800 0.00 (-50.69)  
FTSE 1000-26900 0.00 (-50.88)  
FTSE 1000-27000 0.00 (-51.07)  
FTSE 1000-27100 0.00 (-51.26)  
FTSE 1000-27200 0.00 (-51.45)  
FTSE 1000-27300 0.00 (-51.64)  
FTSE 1000-27400 0.00 (-51.83)  
FTSE 1000-27500 0.00 (-52.02)  
FTSE 1000-27600 0.00 (-52.21)  
FTSE 1000-27700 0.00 (-52.40)  
FTSE 1000-27800 0.00 (-52.59)  
FTSE 1000-27900 0.00 (-52.78)  
FTSE 1000-28000 0.00 (-52.97)  
FTSE 1000-28100 0.00 (-53.16)  
FTSE 1000-28200 0.00 (-53.35)  
FTSE 1000-28300 0.00 (-53.54)  
FTSE 1000-28400 0.00 (-53.73)  
FTSE 1000-28500 0.00 (-53.92)  
FTSE 1000-28600 0.00 (-54.11)  
FTSE 1000-28700 0.00 (-54.30)  
FTSE 1000-28800 0.00 (-54.49)  
FTSE 1000-28900 0.00 (-54.68)  
FTSE 1000-29000 0.00 (-54.87)  
FTSE 1000-29100 0.00 (-55.06)  
FTSE 1000-29200 0.00 (-55.25)  
FTSE 1000-29300 0.00 (-55.44)  
FTSE 1000-29400 0.00 (-55.63)  
FTSE 1000-29500 0.00 (-55.82)  
FTSE 1000-29600 0.00 (-56.01)  
FTSE 1000-29700 0.00 (-56.20)  
FTSE 1000-29800 0.00 (-56.39)  
FTSE 1000-29900 0.00 (-56.58)  
FTSE 1000-30000 0.00 (-56.77)  
FTSE 1000-30100 0.00 (-56.96)  
FTSE 1000-30200 0.00 (-57.15)  
FTSE 1000-30300 0.00 (-57.34)  
FTSE 1000-30400 0.00 (-57.53)  
FTSE 1000-30500 0.00 (-57.72)  
FTSE 1000-30600 0.00 (-57.91)  
FTSE 1000-30700 0.00 (-58.10)  
FTSE 1000-30800 0.00 (-58.29)  
FTSE 1000-30900 0.00 (-58.48)  
FTSE 1000-31000 0.00 (-58.67)  
FTSE 1000-31100 0.00 (-58.86)  
FTSE 1000-31200 0.00 (-59.05)  
FTSE 1000-31300 0.00 (-59.24)  
FTSE 1000-31



The World Economic Forum, described by one participant as a "dialogue between the haves and the have-nots", has been dominated by an attempt to analyse the implications of globalisation for the world's leading economies.

The air in this Swiss resort may be bracingly clear but the collective thinking of the world's leading CEOs is alarmingly limited. A faint air of unease hung vapourously over the meeting. Brazil and Russia were demons sometimes invoked, finance ministers urged each other to co-operate in bolstering world growth, everyone had a suggestion about how to improve the world financial architecture and Alan Greenspan and Bill Gates expressed concern about the stratospheric values accorded to Internet stocks.

And all this meaty stuff, however, CEOs were fixated on just one thing. Why weren't they Yahoo! or Amazon.com? Why couldn't they make that kind of money that quickly? How could they grab a slice of the action in Silicon Valley's gold rush? To

## Cleric's bomb shatters Davos fantasy



population has experienced the most horrendous victimisation and violence, simply didn't register in the mainstream of the meeting.

these corporate brains, globalisation appears to mean whatever get-rich-quick scheme is hitting the headlines: getting online and tapping into global consumer markets; cutting sales and marketing costs to virtually zero; making piles of money.

Those men (invariably) who reach the top of large corporations — by definition one supposes — are really interested only in money. They do not thrill to long-range strategy, complex changes in business trends and certainly not to the social responsibility that comes with economic power.

On Sunday, Ted Turner, of CNN and Time Warner, did a ram-bunctious turn as head of the UN Foundation, urging his fellow millionaires to dip into their pockets for world peace, the environment and the poor. A few consciences may have been pricked momentarily but, despite the forum's theme this year of "Responsible Globali-

ty: Managing the Impact of Globalisation", this speech paid thin lip service to unselfish thoughts.

Readers may now be thinking that CEOs have no business having consciences and should simply get on with what they do best. However, in a world in which the state is shrinking and corporations are going global as nations cannot, executives have to take on some of the responsibilities traditionally the preserve of politicians if the forum's stated aim of "improving The State Of The World" is to be addressed.

For all its boasting about being an intellectual, strategic, outward-looking hothouse of ideas for 2000 executives powerful enough to put them into action, Davos is a peculiarly empty experience. Unemployment, the single most potent symbol of economic and social failure, hardly merited a mention. The social implosion in Asian countries such as Indonesia, whose Chinese

the possibility of fear gas on Saturday afternoon.

The ostrich tendencies of this annual gathering have something to do with the boyishly competitive egos that create successful CEOs. It's all about winners and losers. Last year, Davos was America's glory year. The Goldilocks economy was still romping ahead despite chaos in emerging markets. Asia was beyond the pale. Pre-euro Europe had sluggish growth, mass unemployment, rigid markets, old-fashioned ideas, a lack of entrepreneurial dynamism. This year, the conference chatter had it, is the year of Europe. The Continent still has sluggish growth, mass unemployment and rigid markets but it has the euro. Suddenly, Europe is deemed a roaring success.

In a meeting discussing prospects for Europe, the panelists expressed blanket optimism. Then, during the period for questions (invariably short in Davos), Fields

Wicker-Murfin, a management consultant, one of the forum's appointed "Global Leaders for Tomorrow" and one of the authors of a report called *Wake Up, Europe!*, stood up. She said that Europe had big problems, amounting to what her report described as "an ossified, sclerotic economic system". Peter Sutherland, the moderator of the session, and one of the best-known europhiles, told her that she was being a bit harsh.

It took an elderly, bearded cleric to chuck a bomb into the Davos fantasy world and, given that the forum must have known something of his views, it is to its credit that His Holiness Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, was invited to speak. His critique of globalisation was scathing. Poverty and social exclusion, he said, "challenged the cheap language of global community". Globalisation, he said, is a "graceless system that renders people surplus

and abandons them if they cannot compete in the global economy". Globalisation, in the sense of travel, was the preserve of a tiny elite (many of them flown by helicopter into Davos). His statement made one want to stand up and roar with delight amid all the inane talk of globality, new paradigms and connectivity but it was an isolated moment of shocking realism.

One of the favourite topics in Davos, however, gives cause for hope. To the CEOs, the Internet is a potential commercial goldmine, turning people around the world into even more voracious consumers. What they don't see is the Internet's power to democratise and empower. It will increasingly connect and cut off from the rest of the world in developing countries, and information, as the CEOs tell us, is power.

Amartya Sen, last year's Nobel laureate for economics, was one voice who recognised its potential power for good. No famine, he said, had ever happened in a democracy with a free press, simply because the people had shamed governments into preventing such human catastrophes.

## Battle joined for the best of British talent

Would-be tycoons might do well not to pay too much attention to Simon Woodruffe. The founder of the Yo!Sushi chain of restaurants may be a sparkling example of an entrepreneur, having started his business for the living room of his flat, but at yesterday's launch of the Entrepreneur of the Year at the Yo!Sushi branch in Soho, he hinted that all entrepreneurs were slightly crazy.

"It needs a certain amount of self-denial to start your own business. If you had all the facts, you would not do it," Mr Woodruffe said.

Crazy or not, the UK probably produces more entrepreneurs per head of population than any other country. From Richard Arkwright to Richard Branson, British entrepreneurs have created businesses and ideas that have dominated and changed the business world. Yet the British culture of sneering at success means that often the achievement of people who are willing to take the sort of risks that most of the population would shy away from, goes unrecognised. In an attempt to change that, the Entrepreneur of the Year award is being launched.

The award is part of an international competition which was started by Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, in America 13 years ago. It now runs in 20 countries across five continents. The British element of this competition, being launched this year, is being co-sponsored by *The Times* and Citibank Private Bank as well as being supported by the Department of Trade and Industry, the British Chambers of Commerce, the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors.

Announcing the award yesterday, David Wilkinson, E&Y's national head of entrepreneurial services, said: "The Entrepreneur of the Year awards celebrate the achievements of outstanding individuals who head growing, dynamic businesses and recognise the significant contribution they make to the economy. These awards will help bring entrepreneurs to the forefront, giving them the status and recognition they deserve."

At yesterday's launch, Michael Wills, the minister for small firms at the DTI, said that entrepreneurs were the

The Entrepreneur of the Year award aims to pit successful risk-takers against world competitors, writes Jason Nissé



Pursuit of excellence: from left, David Wilkinson, Michael Wills and Simon Woodruffe, at the launch of the award yesterday

lifeblood of the British economy. He said that the DTI wanted to support a programme celebrating people who "take these risks that are needed to build successful enterprises" and that is why the issue of promoting enterprise was a central theme of the Competitiveness White Paper issued last December.

Mr Wills added that it was important to foster entrepreneurial zeal among the young. "Why should our children not aspire to be the next James Dyson, Anita Roddick or Simon Woodruffe as much as they aspire to be the next Michael Owen or Shaznay Lewis?" Mr Wills said.

These comments will no doubt ring true with many entrepreneurs. E&Y asked MORI, the research agency, to survey 800 entrepreneurs and

found that 83 per cent of them thought their contribution to society is not recognised and 69 per cent of them wanted a society that "celebrates business heroes".

Only three out of ten thought that the current business climate favoured entrepreneurship. The survey also found that entrepreneurs were more positive about the economy than other business leaders — only 37 per cent of them think economic prospects are gloomy compared with 89 per cent of captains of industry, questioned in a recent MORI poll.

Simon Woodruffe admitted that he could not claim to be young — he is 44 — but he said that his aim was to create a worldwide brand with Yo!, though it boasts just four restaurants and a delivery service at the moment. "I hope one day that the Yo! brand will be to the dance generation what Virgin was to my generation — the baby boomers," Mr Woodruffe said. He said that successful entrepreneurs are often people who are not afraid of failure.

However, for those not afraid to enter, the Entrepreneur of the Year competition

works like this. Entrepreneurs can either nominate themselves or be nominated. A full application form can be obtained either by sending off the short form on this page, calling either the Ernst & Young hotline on 0845 604 1012 or other of its regional hotlines 0845 601 1013/4/5/6/7. All applications have to be in by April 30.

The nominations will then go to five regional heads — Scotland, North, Central, South and London — where they will be judged by a panel of prominent members of the local business community. They will visit the businesses of the nominees to get a feeling for what they are achieving — this is not an award based on just statistics and past performance.

The regional heads will deliver a series of winners. There will be a number of sub-



ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

## Late billing

THE Corporation of London has rejected my suggestion yesterday that the Bill to reform the electoral franchise could fail. Guiddhall insists that the reforms, which would give the vote to City businesses but reduce the influence of those living in the Square Mile, can still become law even after, as I predicted, they were opposed by three Labour MPs at the second hearing yesterday.

As the City branch of the Labour Party believes the Bill will now fail, I ring the Private Bill office at Westminster. In summary, the Bill, despite yes-

terday's opposition, can still go through to be debated by the House of Commons, probably some time in March.

But it then faces further hurdles, most notably a majority vote of at least 100 MPs at 10 o'clock one night, a time when honourable members tend to be thin on the ground. As it is a private Bill, the whips cannot be used.

So the Corporation has to lobby hard to ensure the necessary majority. "All of this is very much on our minds," my man says. "We're aiming to ensure there are going to be 100 MPs there."



"What! We've been fined? I didn't look too closely at the details"

A SPLENDID leader in the Financial Times yesterday. So splendid, indeed, that they ran it twice on the same page. I agonised over mentioning it — bad luck, you know. But it was about rationalisation in the banking sector...

### Sharing

A SORRY, I don't know how that got there. Um, FEARS are growing for David Montgomery's £135 million cash pile from the Mirror Group after a former colleague recalls



an early foray by Monty into investment. On joining *Today* ten years ago, he instituted a portfolio of shares so readers could benefit from his skills.

Monty even put in £5,000 of his own money to start the fund off. A selection of stocks were bought, and the progress of the fund closely tracked. Coverage ended, for some reason, four months later — by which time the value of the portfolio had dipped below £3,000.

### Double bed

BY COINCIDENCE, the very day last week that I wrote about Eurotunnel's ridiculous tariffs a reader was trying to book a room through Stakis Hotels.

He was offered a double room at a special price of £39

per person. When he asked for a single, the price quoted was £99. So he offered to pay full price for a double and keep the £21 change. No, said the clerk, and they reserved the right at any time to check that the room was occupied by two people and if it was not, charge the higher price.

Needless to say, Stakis says this was all a terrible mistake. But our reader had a suggestion. Could he book a double and use the money saved to hire some local working girl to make up the numbers? It is contrary to normal hotel policy on such trade, admittedly, but it seemed a reasonable compromise.

He says the clerk didn't seem to find this terribly funny.

NAMES, names. Norske Skog, a Norwegian paper company with interests in France and Austria, is merging with Hansol Paper of South Korea and Canada's Abitibi Consolidated. The three will re-emerge as Pan Asia Paper, which doesn't make much geographical sense until you consider the alternative. Try saying, I'm the man from Skog Hansol Abitibi with a straight face.

### Relapse

GEOFFREY ROBINSON, the former Paymaster General and once in charge of the Private Finance Initiative, has

stepped into a controversy over a PFI project in his Coventry constituency. Robinson probably thought he had heard the last of the dread initials, but he is objecting to plans for a new hospital on the outskirts.

Instead he prefers an existing city centre site, on the grounds that it would be more convenient for his constituents.

Robinson has even gone to Tarmac, which has a dedicated PFI unit, for a study confirming the viability of the city centre site. "We said in principle it would seem to be viable but it's not necessarily a preferred option," the company tells me. It hardly seems the most ringing of recommendations.

MARTIN WALLER  
citydiary@the-times.co.uk



Robinson turned to Tarmac for support in his bid to keep city centre hospital

### REQUEST FOR AN OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

#### Nominee

Name ..... Title .....

Business Name .....

Business address .....

Town/City .....

Postcode .....

Telephone .....

Fax .....

Email .....

Business website address .....

#### Nominator

Name ..... Title .....

Business Name .....

Business address .....

Town/City .....

Postcode .....

Telephone .....

Fax .....

Email .....

Business website address .....

Please mail an official nomination form to the ☐ nominee, ☐ nominator

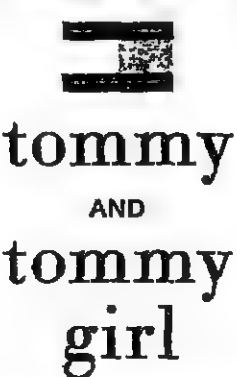
For more information, call 0845 604 1012 or visit our website at <http://www.eoy.co.uk>

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE THE TOUCH

### THE SUNDAY TIMES

## PRESENTS Valentine's Day

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



The Sunday Times offers you the opportunity to place a Valentine's message in the paper on Sunday February 14th 1999. In addition we will send a 50ml bottle of tommy girl (RRP £25) or tommy (RRP £22) together with a note which reads "Look for your message in the Sunday Times on Valentine's Day". The cost is from £35 for a minimum 3 line message and a 50ml fragrance. Please indicate whether the male or female fragrance is required by ticking the relevant box below.

The most romantic message published will win a romantic holiday for two...

WRITE YOUR MESSAGE BELOW - ONE WORD PER BOX	NO LINES	PRICE*
	1	£35
	2	£35
	3	£35
	4	£42
	5	£48
	6	£54

EACH SUBSEQUENT LINE WILL BE CHARGED AT £8.00 \*INCLUDES VAT

#### YOUR DETAILS

Name .....  
Address .....  
Postcode .....  
Telephone .....

#### YOUR VALENTINE'S DETAILS

Name .....  
Address .....  
Postcode .....  
Male ☐ Female ☐

I enclose a cheque/PO for £.....made payable to Times Newspapers Limited  
Or debit my credit card by £..... Card expiry date .../.../...  
Card No .....  
Signature .....

Please send this coupon with remittance to:  
Valentines Messages, The Sunday Times,  
PO Box 484, Virginia Street,  
London E19 9LJ,  
Fax 0171 782 7799  
E-mail: [valentines@newsint.co.uk](mailto:valentines@newsint.co.uk)

CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS 0171 481 4000

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm and Saturday 9.30am to 12 midday  
Coupons must be received no later than Tuesday February 9th 1999. We reserve the right to omit an advertisement.  
\*Standard terms and conditions apply

051 77 11 41



**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**

\* Yield expressed as CAGR (Compound Annual Return).  
† Ex dividend; ‡ Multiple price; ... No significant data.  
§ Periodic charge deducted from capital; ‡ Ex charge.



# Second-liners lead the way

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120	Heineken	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
121	Carlsberg	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
122	Asahi	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
123	Daewoo	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
124	San Miguel	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**BANKS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
125	Bank of America	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
126	Wells Fargo	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
127	Citigroup	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
128	JPMorgan Chase	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
129	Bank of New York	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
130	Heineken	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
131	Carlsberg	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
132	Asahi	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
133	Daewoo	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
134	San Miguel	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**BUILDING MATERIALS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
135	Home Depot	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
136	Lowe's	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
137	Walmart	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
138	Kroger	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
139	Target	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**CHEMICALS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
140	Dow Chemical	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
141	Exxon Mobil	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
142	Shell	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
143	BP	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
144	Amoco	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**CONSTRUCTION**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
145	Bechtel	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
146	Skanska	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
147	Parsons	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
148	Hochtief	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
149	Stantec	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**DISTRIBUTORS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
150	Walmart	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
151	Kroger	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
152	Target	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
153	Home Depot	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
154	Lowe's	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**ENGINEERING, VEHICLES**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
155	General Motors	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
156	Ford Motor	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
157	Chrysler	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
158	Stellantis	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
159	Volvo	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
120	Heineken	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
121	Carlsberg	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
122	Asahi	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
123	Daewoo	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
124	San Miguel	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**BANKS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
125	Bank of America	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
126	Wells Fargo	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
127	Citigroup	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
128	JPMorgan Chase	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
129	Bank of New York	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
130	Heineken	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
131	Carlsberg	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
132	Asahi	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
133	Daewoo	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
134	San Miguel	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**BUILDING MATERIALS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
135	Home Depot	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
136	Lowe's	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
137	Walmart	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
138	Kroger	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
139	Target	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**CHEMICALS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
140	Dow Chemical	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
141	Exxon Mobil	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
142	Shell	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
143	BP	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
144	Amoco	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**CONSTRUCTION**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
145	Bechtel	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
146	Skanska	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
147	Parsons	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
148	Hochtief	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
149	Stantec	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**DISTRIBUTORS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
150	Walmart	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
151	Kroger	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
152	Target	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
153	Home Depot	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
154	Lowe's	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**ENGINEERING, VEHICLES**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
155	General Motors	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
156	Ford Motor	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
157	Chrysler	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
158	Stellantis	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
159	Volvo	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**FOOD MANUFACTURERS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
160	Unilever	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
161	Procter & Gamble	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
162	Johnson & Johnson	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
163	Pfizer	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
164	Merck	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**HEALTHCARE**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
165	Novartis	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
166	Roche	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
167	Novo Nordisk	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
168	Abbott	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
169	Amgen	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT.**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
170	Walmart	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
171	Kroger	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
172	Target	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
173	Home Depot	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
174	Lowe's	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**INSURANCE**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
175	AIG	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
176	MetLife	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
177	Prudential	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
178	Amica	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
179	Liberty Mutual	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**INVESTMENT TRUSTS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
180	Fidelity	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
181	Vanguard	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
182	BlackRock	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
183	State Street	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
184	Wellington	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**SHORTS (under 5 years)**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
185	Apple	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
186	Microsoft	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
187	Amazon	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
188	Google	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
189	Facebook	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**LONGS (over 15 years)**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
190	Apple	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
191	Microsoft	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
192	Amazon	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
193	Google	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
194	Facebook	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**MEDICINE (5 to 15 years)**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
195	Novartis	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
196	Roche	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
197	Novo Nordisk	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
198	Abbott	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
199	Amgen	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

Thousands of businesses come back to BT every month.



**RETAILERS, FOOD**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
200	Walmart	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
201	Kroger	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
202	Target	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
203	Home Depot	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
204	Lowe's	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**RETAILERS, GENERAL**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
205	Walmart	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
206	Kroger	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
207	Target	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
208	Home Depot	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
209	Lowe's	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**PHARMACEUTICALS**

Code	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
210	Novartis	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
211	Roche	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
212	Novo Nordisk	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
213	Abbott	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5
214	Amgen	114.00	+0.10	0.1	12.5

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

Code	Company	Price
------	---------	-------







Roger Wright, Radio 3's new Controller, tells Richard Morrison that he wants his network to open a window on to the wider arts and music world

# Live and lively at the new Radio 3

Roger Wright doesn't look like a man prone to bouts of gloom. But if he does succumb he might take comfort from the words of his predecessor, Nicholas Kenyon: "Always remember, the great thing about being Controller of Radio 3 is that you can't win."

That's true. Depending on which episode he plucks from his postbag, Wright will be told that his network is too elitist or too populist, too chatty or too stuffy, indigestibly high-brow or slithering dumbly into the gutter.

As for his BBC bosses, they may nod benignly now when he tells them that Radio 3 is all about quality, quality and quality, and not about such trivial matters as a ratings war with Classic FM. But a year down the line, when the audience gap between Radio 3

and Concert Orchestra, left with free time on its hands, could then use its subsidised advantages to outbid the independent London orchestras for commercial engagements — and, in Wright's words, "destabilise the external market".

Wright's deal not only convinced the BBC's governors to continue picking up the hefty tab for five house orchestras and a full-time professional chorus. It also probably tipped the scales in his favour when Radio 3's top job fell vacant last summer. Wright's main challenge came from an unashamed populist, the Decca record executive Roger Lewis, and the choice between them seemed to epitomise an ideological tussle within the BBC between quality and ratings, public-broadcasting obligations and global ambitions. Was that how Wright saw it?

"All I can say is that I stated a view about the sort of network I would feel comfortable running, and that I have not had to compromise on any of the things I said then. The fact that I got the job means, I suppose, that these were the things that the BBC top management wanted for Radio 3 too."

Bizarrely, this turned out to be only the first skirmish in the "Battle of the Rogers". For on the very day that Wright's appointment was announced, Lewis accepted the job of running Classic FM. So it is hand-to-hand combat now? Not according to Wright. Following the usual Radio 3 line, he won't admit that the two stations are even on the same battlefield.

His network is "not in the business of competing with Classic FM", he claims. "And I am certainly not looking over my shoulder and asking myself: 'If we were more like them, would we get their audience?' The first priority is to get our own music policy right, and the right balance of speech and music that will draw listeners into a world of ideas in an entertaining way. Once we have done that we can think about getting it to as many people as possible. If we do it the other way round we are on a downward spiral."

Yesterday he offered a glimpse of what those fine words mean in practice, unveiling a new look to the morning schedule that dumps such lamented slots as *Artist of the Week* and *Sound Stories* to



Roger Wright in the foyer of Broadcasting House: "It is not so much the fact that people aren't listening that worries me; it is the realisation that they don't even know it is there"

make space for a daily 90-minute transmission of live or specially recorded performance at 11.30am. "Yes, people might cough, there might be split notes, or the programme might overrun," he says. "But the message we have to get across is that live broadcasts are so much more interesting than simply playing CDs."

If Wright has a big idea for Radio 3, this is it. He perceives that for much of the time Classic FM does little except play CDs, and he wants Radio 3 to differentiate itself by relaying the most exciting events from the wider arts world. He promises far more broadcasts from Edinburgh, Cheltenham and the big European festivals this summer, and more BBC mini-festivals ("We must utilise the musical resources that only we

have"), in addition to the immensely popular Proms. Nor will the outside links only be musical. Wright is "doing deals with places like the Almeida" to bring the most talked-about London theatre productions to Radio 3. "I really want to get the message across about drama," he says. "When I tell people that I run the network that broadcasts Hare's *Via Dolorosa*,

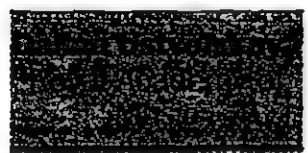
Harriet Walter in *Hedda Gabler*, Peter Hall's *Major Barbara*, Shakespeare plays and the Troy trilogy, they usually say: 'Goodness, when is that festival coming on?' I reply: 'That was the past six weeks on Radio 3'. It's not so much the fact that people aren't listening that worries me; it's the realisation that they don't even know it's there."

He has already saved the useful magazine programme *Music Matters* from the chop. Elsewhere, he promises less banter and more music on the breakfast programme *On Air*, and yet another tinkering with the Saturday morning *CD Review*, revamped to general dismay last year.

Hardly a day goes by when my postbag does not remind me of these issues," he says. Ah, the famous postbag! Its contradictory, bad-tempered contents may come to infuriate Wright, but they should thrill him as well. Radio 3's listeners may not be legion, but they care passionately about their station — and they will defend to their last breath the old-fashioned notion of a music network that repays serious listening. Good for them. In Wright they may have a kindred spirit and a doughy champion.

## Noisy world of faith

Shostakovich was besotted with her. "It is not I," he commented to his pupil, "who have influenced you, but you me." Schnittke and James MacMillan revere her. George Benjamin finds her music totally impossible. The reclusive, St Petersburg-enclosed composer Galina Ustvolskaya celebrates her 80th birthday this summer, and the Royal Academy of Music opened a rare door into her world and her mind in its en-



terprising festival of Russian music last week. It was a noisy place to be. Imagine the four syllables of the words "Dies irae" constantly hammered and thwacked out at polarised pitches, their beat repeated, permuted, re-

peated again, sometimes on a monotone, sometimes within a cluster, sometimes in the melodic intervals of the unquiet spirit of a fragment of Russian chant. Imagine mallets colliding with bruising church bells in a world of fearful whisperings and relentless hammerings on the mind. Imagine a dysfunctional music born of a dysfunctional time, and deaf to all ears but its own. This is Galina Ustvolskaya.

The students of the RAM, conducted by John Carewe, presented the UK premiere of her Symphony No 2, *True and eternal bliss*, its name reflects the claustrophobically religious theatre of Ustvolskaya's mind: this symphony, like the two which follow it, sets an apocalyptic text by the aptly named medieval German writer Hermannus Contractus. One of the Academy's instrumental students, Evgeny Chebykin, was on hand to recite it, cupping and opening his hands to call forth the repeated word "Ghospodir" ("O, Lord"), for all the world like a human ram's horn.

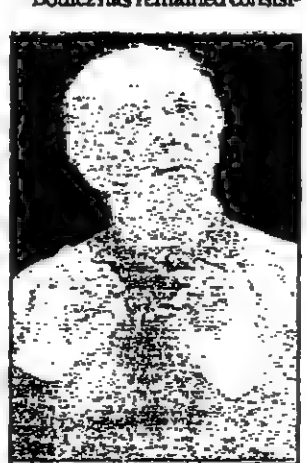
His plaintive voice rang out over the piano's striding chords, the loud thracks of the bass drum, a tuba whose single note was sustained through a searing crescendo, before a little dotted rhythm was squeezed out of the trumpet's muted mouth, and flutes and oboes led the still pounding syllables to a dying fall.

We also heard Ustvolskaya's 15-minute Third Symphony, *Jesu Messias*, *Save Us* for six oboes, five trumpets, one trombone, three tubas, three drums, piano, five double-basses and reciting voice. This was followed by the ten-minute Fifth Symphony, finished in 1990, and offering a more distilled "setting" of the Lord's Prayer. A similar instrumental line-up is joined here by the beating of a specially made plywood cube, already heard to tumultuous effect in the earlier *Composition 2 Amen*.

HILARY FINCH

## Theories of evolution

Even if we have to accept that our century will end before its music is truly appreciated, it is always good to see people resisting the inevitable. This all-Boulez programme drew a sizeable, enthusiastic Festival Hall audience, with the musicians relishing every note — well, a little tension showed on their faces during the opening work — and dispatching some of the most complex scores with apparent ease: in short, another remarkable concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra.



A mellower Pierre Boulez reworking earlier material

Boulez has remained consistently true to himself, in his words "transforming those rules which have become nothing more nor less than the conventions of an established swindle", but he has mellowed over time and is now less likely to be found throwing musical hand grenades. As a living artist, he has created living pieces which constantly revisit themselves: all four scores in this first event of the BBC's *Boulez Portrait* were reworkings of earlier material.

None has evolved further than *Le visage nuptial*. For its lushness and approachability it is his equivalent of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*. In five



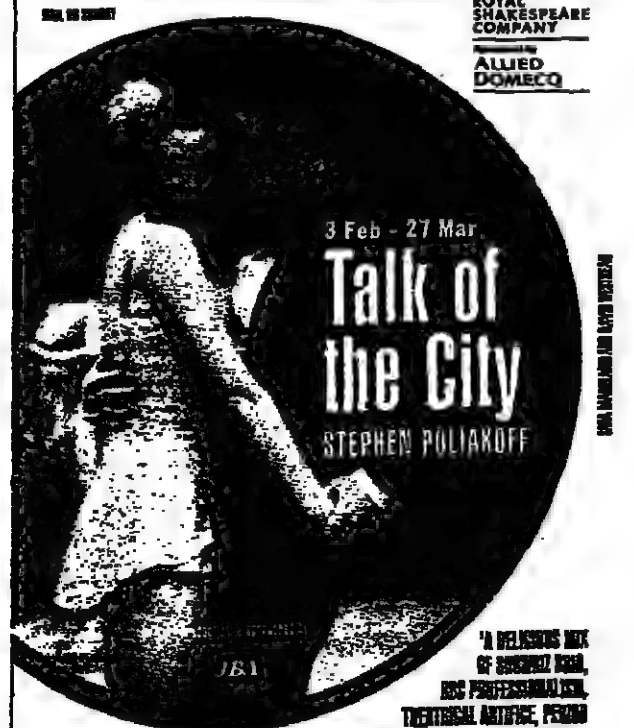
movements, all settings of René Char's poetry, it calls for a gigantic orchestra, women's voices (the excellent BBC Singers), soprano and mezzo soloists. Andrew Davis wielded his forces impressively, especially in the big central movement that gives the work its title, capturing the broad flow and the palpating detail. Christine Schäfer and Susan Parry were well-matched soloists. All were alive in the way poetry and music seemingly evaporate at the end.

As befits Boulez's old band — he was chief conductor during the 1970s — the BBCSO played all the music with instinctive understanding. *Eclat/Multiples* progressed from its opening piano cadenza, by turns angry and tender, towards increasingly exotic sounds: tuned percussion are ultimately joined by winds and no fewer than ten violas for the "multiple reflections" implied in the title. By the mesmerising end, these reflections are more like ripples broadening out in a great celebration of sound. But, like many celebrations, this one goes on a little too long.

Two shorter items completed the concert. *Cummings I st der dichter* features music as fragmented as the poetry, but in spite of some surprises in the choral writing the work does not have the blazing individuality of Boulez's best scores. By contrast, *Notations 1-4* are a series of short but massively orchestrated soundscapes that, moving from a languid uncoiling of themes to explosive vigour, brought the evening to an arresting close.

JOHN ALLISON

'STEPHEN POLIAKOFF'S ABSORBING NEW PLAY...DELIGHTFUL...POWERFUL'



3 Feb - 27 Mar  
**Talk of the City**  
STEPHEN POLIAKOFF

RSC  
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY  
ALLIED DOMCO

A DELICIOUS MIX OF  
BROADWAY THEATRE  
THEATRICAL ARTISTRY, PIANO  
MUSIC AND MYSTERY...REMARKABLE

IN CONVERSATION - Thursday 4 Feb, 8pm  
Stephen Poliakoff discusses the choices that shape his writing of current affairs and the responsibility of the artist, with Andrew Marr and David Lane

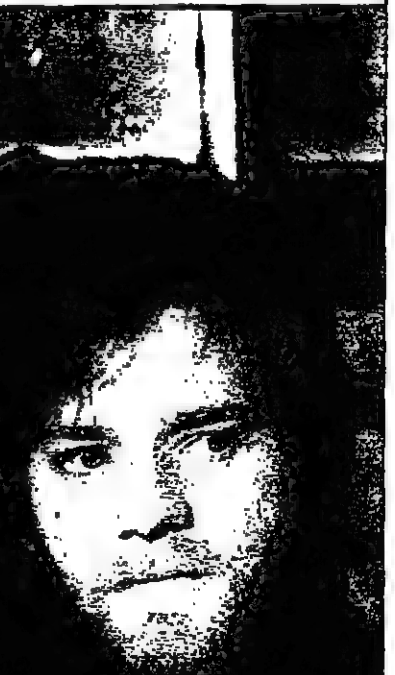
Young Vic Theatre  
Box Office: 0171 928 6363  
06 The Col 10000 001 002

## ONLY 5½ WEEKS TO SEE...

"EWAN MCGREGOR:  
FIERCE, GRACEFUL  
AND FUNNY"

OBSERVER

LITTLE  
**MALCOLM**  
AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS  
BY DAVID HALLIWELL



"A BLAZING  
MODERN CLASSIC"

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

"AN OUTSTANDING CAST"

DAILY TELEGRAPH

"DIRECTED BY DENIS LAWSON  
WITH TREMENDOUS FLAIR"

DAILY TELEGRAPH

A HAMPSHIRE THEATRE PRODUCTION  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROBERT FOX

BOX OFFICE & CREDIT CARDS: 0174 369 1741  
CREDIT CARDS (24 Hours): 0171 344 4444 (PLUS 111)

COMEDY THEATRE

Panton Street, London W1A 3AH

ack







## Court of Appeal

## Law Report February 3 1999

## Court of Appeal

## Directors' life payments agreement valid

## Sentencing defendants who assist police

Wright and Another v Atlas Wright (Europe) Ltd

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment January 28]

Agreements between a company and its directors providing for payment for life, terminable only by the directors and not by the company, were valid and enforceable even though the procedural steps set out in section 319 of the Companies Act 1985 had not been complied with, since the directors' agreement was given by the sole shareholder of the company for an act which was intra vires the company powers.

Applying the principle in *In re Duomatic* [1969] 2 Ch 363, the formalities in section 319 were enforceable in favour of the class for whose benefit and protection it was designed, namely shareholders.

The *Duomatic* principle did not necessarily apply in respect of every resolution passed as an authorisation process under the 1985 Act. The underlying purpose of each provision had to be examined to determine whether the *Duomatic* principle applied in relation to it.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing the appeal of the defendant, Atlas Wright (Europe) Ltd, against the decision of Judge Gubb QC, sitting as a High Court Judge at Birmingham Mercantile Court on February 10, 1998, on questions of law under Order 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court in relation to agreements made between the defendant company and the plaintiffs, George Peter Wright and Alan Wright on May 9, 1988.

Mr Andrew Stafford for the company, Mr Alan Gough for Mr Wright and Mr Wright.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER said that the company was sued by Mr Wright in 1973 and carried on the business of design, manufacture and contracting of air-conditioning systems.

He was the chairman and managing director of the company and

his wife, the second plaintiff, was a director. Between them they owned the entire share capital of the company.

In May 1987 the company's entire share capital was sold to Wheway plc and service agreements were entered into between the company and each of the plaintiffs, terminable on 12 months' notice. A year later the first plaintiff wanted to retire, and on May 9, 1988 the agreement for his retirement was made in substitution for the service agreements.

Mr Wright's agreement appointed him as president of the company for life, terminable by Mr Wright by six months' notice. Mr Wright was each to receive an annual remuneration of £10,000.

A special resolution of the company was passed on June 6, 1988 which authorised its board to appoint any person who was or had been a director to be president and determine the period that person was to hold office.

The chief executive of Wheway confirmed that he had authority to ratify the agreement between the company and Mr and Mrs Wright, and that he did so by special resolution.

On June 15, 1988 Mr and Mrs Wright resigned as directors. The company remained in the ownership of Wheway for seven years during which it honoured the agreements.

On November 2, 1995 the company's share capital was acquired by Atlas Wright (Europe) Ltd. Following the change of control, the company's directors concluded that the agreements were not in its or its shareholders' best interests and by letter of December 23, 1996 gave notice to terminate the agreements with effect from January 31, 1997.

The company was advised that the agreements were void by reason of section 319 of the Companies Act 1985, and that was the sole defence it raised in the action commenced by Mr and Mrs Wright. It was not in dispute that section

319 prohibited the grant to directors of contracts for more than five years' term unless those contracts could not be terminated by the company, unless certain procedural steps were taken, in which event such long term contracts could be granted.

The basic procedural steps were in broad terms that:

(a) The proposed agreement had to be approved by resolution at a general meeting (subsection (3));

(b) The proposed agreement had to be available for inspection for 15 days prior to that general meeting (subsection (5a));

(c) The proposed agreement had to be available for inspection at the general meeting itself (subsection (5b)).

Nor was it in dispute that such contracts were not rendered unlawful as a whole, the only sanction provided for being that in subsection (6), namely that to the extent that any term of the agreement contravened section 319 it was void, a deemed provision for reasonable notice being substituted.

The doctrine that the unanimous consent of all shareholders who had a right to attend and vote at a general meeting of the company could override formal, including statutory, requirements in relation to the passing of resolutions at such meetings (the *Duomatic* principle) had been developed and applied in a number of reported decisions, largely at first instance, and it was not argued that the *Duomatic* principle was in error.

The argument centred on whether the particular statutory language of section 319 excluded or rendered inappropriate the application of the *Duomatic* principle.

Before the judge it was argued for the company that the principle in *Duomatic* should not be applied so as to save the "for life" provision in Mr and Mrs Wright's contracts. In particular, because the express provisions in section 319(3) and (5), coupled with subsections (3) and (5), amounted to a peremptory language in respect of which there was no room for waiver or the ap-

plication of the *Duomatic* principle. The judge rejected that submission.

The purpose of section 319 of the 1985 Act was to ensure that a company should not be bound by an obligation to employ a director for more than five years unless its members had considered and approved the relevant term.

Section 319(6) was not fatal to the submission that contravention of the procedural provisions rendered the term of employment void to the extent that it exceeded five years.

The reasoning of Mr Justice Lindsay in *In re R W Peak (Kings Lynn) Ltd* [1998] 1 BCLC 1930, on the inter-relationship between the provisions for written resolutions in sections 381A-C and the *Duomatic* principle did not apply to the requirements of section 319 or the facts of the instant case.

Approaching the matter as one of principle, the submissions for Mr and Mrs Wright were to be preferred.

While the various authorities decided upon the *Duomatic* principle did not make clear just how far formalities required by statute as to the passing of resolutions for the effect of the company arrangements could be ignored as formalities overlooked by oversight and curable by assent, it seemed appropriate to approach that question on the basis of consideration of the purpose and underlying rationale of the particular formality in question.

Thus it was logical in the case of *R W Peak* not to apply the *Duomatic* principle when it would have undermined the clear statutory purpose of section 164(2) and (5), as well as the broad policy considerations of Chapter VII of the 1985 Act. In this case it was plain that real consent was given by the sole shareholder of the company for an act which was intra vires the company's powers.

Further, there was no plain purpose behind section 319(3) and (5)

beyond the benefit and protection of the shareholders of the company.

The underlying intention appeared to his Lordship to be to require unequivocal approval of the shareholders (subsection (3)) to a long term contract in respect of which there had been proper opportunity for the shareholders to consider the terms of the agreement approved (subsection (5)).

The requirement of subsection (3), taken alone, was unarguably amenable to the *Duomatic* principle.

While subsection (5) set out the formalities required as a precondition to the passing of the resolution contemplated in subsection (3) it seemed to his Lordship no more than a back-up formality in the nature of a notice provision designed to ensure the opportunity for fully informed consent by the shareholders.

It was thus amenable to waiver by the class for whose protection it was designed. In circumstances where it was clear that there was in fact fully informed consent in respect of an agreement known to the sole shareholder for longer than the 15-day period provided for in subsection (5).

To determine whether the *Duomatic* principle applied in respect of any resolution passed as an authorisation process under the 1985 Act, each provision required to be examined on its merits against the criterion of underlying purpose.

There might well be good reasons for refusing to apply the *Duomatic* principle to a particular provision when its underlying purpose was examined.

His Lordship expressed no view on the applicability of the doctrine save in the case of section 319.

The judge was correct in holding that the relevant clause in each of the agreements in question were valid and of full effect.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS and LORD JUSTICE POTTER agreed.

Solicitors: Eversheds, Manchester; Wragge & Co, Birmingham.

Regina v X

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Hughes and Judge Stephens, QC

[Judgment February 1]

Guidance as to the proper manner in which a sentencing judge should deal with confidential material put before him about a defendant who had given assistance to the police was given by the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division.

The court allowed an appeal by X against total sentences imposed in July 1998 in Croydon Crown Court by Judge Pratt of four years imprisonment for burglary and breach of probation orders in respect of theft and burglary. The sentences were reduced to three and a half years.

Mr Gordon Ross, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Miss Campaspe Lloyd-Jacob for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE HUGHES, giving the judgment of the court, said that the case raised the question of the proper manner in which a sentencing judge should deal with a written confidential report made by a police officer and verified at senior level, indicating that the appellant had given information to the police.

The proper principles to be applied were as follows:

1 It should be remembered that a document of that kind, although

supplied by a police officer, was submitted at the request of a defendant.

2 Except to the extent that a defendant's story was supported by the police, it would not generally be likely that the sentencing judge would be able to make any adjustment to the sentence. A defendant's unsupported assertions were not likely to make any difference.

3 It followed that courts had to rely heavily on the completeness and accuracy of the report as presented, and the greatest care had to be taken in the compiling of such documents for the purpose of a judge.

4 Except in very unusual circumstances it would not be necessary or desirable for a document of that kind to contain the kind of details which would necessitate a public interest immunity application.

5 If it did attract public interest immunity consideration then the usual rules about the conduct of such an application would apply; see Crown Court (Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996) (Disclosure) Rules (SI 1997 No 688). 6 Absent any consideration of public interest immunity, which their Lordships took to be the general position, a such document should be shown to counsel for the defence who would not doubt discuss the contents with the defendant.

That was not because it would be necessary to debate its contents but so that there should be no rea-

son for any unfounded suspicion that the judge had been told anything unfavourable.

On general principles a defendant was entitled to see documents put before the judge who was sentencing him. Expeditions to "judge's chambers" should not usually be necessary.

7 If a defendant disagreed with the contents of such a document it was not appropriate to cross-examine the police officer, either in court or in chambers. The police officer was not a Crown witness in such a situation. He was simply supplying information to the judge at the request of the defendant. If a defendant did not accept what the document said, his remedy was not to rely on it.

8 No doubt the judge should normally disregard such a document if asked to do so by the defendant. 9 If the judge did take the document into consideration then he should say no more than was current practice that he had taken it into account.

Consistently with those principles their Lordships approached the case on the basis of a written document before them, not on any assertion by the appellant outside that material. But because the material before them was somewhat further than that before the trial judge they considered that the sentence should be moderated.

Solicitors: CPS, Croydon.

## Fire insurance valid

Printpak (a firm) v AGF Insurance Ltd

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Waller

[Judgment January 29]

Breach of a section warranty in a commercial inclusive insurance policy did not invalidate the insurance cover under other sections of the policy. The terms of the policy were such as to exclude section 33(3) of the Marine Insurance Act 1906, which discharged an insurer from liability where a warranty was not complied with.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal from Judge Haggarty in the Manchester district registry of the Queen's Bench Division on September 24, 1997 ordering as a preliminary issue that the plaintiffs' breach of a warranty to maintain a burglar alarm did not invalidate their fire insurance under a policy with the defendants.

Section 33 of the 1906 Act provides: "(3) A warranty... is a condition which must be exactly complied with, whether it be material to the risk or not. If it be not so complied with, then, subject to any express provision in the policy, the insurer is discharged from liability as from the date of the breach of warranty, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by him be-

fore that date." Mr Anthony Barker, QC, for the defendants, Mr Paul Isaacs for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said that the plaintiffs' print finishing factory in Leeds had been insured under a commercial inclusive policy under which a number of sections each afforded a different kind of insurance policy.

The plaintiffs had sustained loss and damage by fire and claimed in respect of loss which the defendants repudiated alleging arson. The defendants also said that they were discharged from liability by reason of breach by the plaintiffs of a warranty in the policy.

The warranty provided that the burglar alarm be fully operational at all times when the premises were closed. When the fire broke place the alarm was turned off because of building work.

It was necessary to focus on the form and structure of the policy itself. Each different type of risk was dealt with in a separate section.

Section A dealt with fire and other damage to property; section B dealt with section C, marine; section H, employer's liability, and so on.

The precise terms of insurance in respect of each risk were prescribed by a schedule, so that the individual policy was tailor-made to

give the particular cover required. Under each risk in the schedule there was a list of "section endorsements". The alarm warranty was a section endorsement under section B, theft.

The crux of Mr Barker's argument was that when the policy was viewed as a single contract and there had been an attempted breach of the alarm warranty it followed in the light of the 1906 Act that the insurers were discharged from the contract.

In his Lordship's judgment, it did not follow that because it was a single contract it was to be treated as a seamless document. The commercial inclusive endorsements were all stated in terms to be "operative only as stated in the policy schedule".

Those words explicitly wrote the warranty into the relevant section and not into the others. That was also borne out by their being described as "section endorsements".

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS and LORD JUSTICE WALLER agreed.

Solicitors: Paris & Co, Warwick; Eversheds, Leeds.

## Correction

In *R v Liverpool City Magistrates*, *The Times* (February 2) the Divisional Court allowed the application of John Qantrell.

## Summary assessment of interlocutory costs

Practice Direction (Supreme Court Costs)

Arrangements were announced for the summary assessment of costs in interlocutory applications in the Queen's Bench and Chancery divisions of the High Court and in county courts. Such arrangements did not apply to family proceedings in the High Court or in a county court.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER, Lord Chief Justice, so stated on February 1 then sitting with Mr Justice Bristow in the Lord Chief Justice's Court, and issuing the practice direction given by his Lordship as President of the Queen's Bench Division and by Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, as Vice-President of the Chancery Division on behalf of the Lord Chancellor pursuant to section 5 of the Civil Procedure Act 1997.

The direction stated: "1 Judges at all levels in the judiciary have a discretionary power to assess summarily the amount of costs to be paid by a party to the litigation to another party: see Order 62, rule 7(4)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court and Order 38, rule 3(3)(d) and rule 19(3) of the County Court Rules 1981."

It was desired to encourage a great use by judges of that power. Accordingly, the following paragraph applied to every interlocutory hearing the estimated duration of which did not exceed one day.

20 At the conclusion of the hearing of every interlocutory application in the High Court and of every interlocutory application in the county court to which Order 38, rule 3(3)(d) or rule 19(3) of the County Court Rules 1981 applied, the court should consider whether or not to assess summarily the amount of the costs of the application to be recoverable by one party from another. Where Order 38, rule 19(3) of the County Court Rules 1981 applied, the court was obliged to assess the costs.

(i) The general rule was that whenever a "costs in any event" order was made the court should make a summary assessment of costs unless there was good reason not to do so, for example, where the paying party showed substantial grounds for disputing the sum claimed for costs that could not be dealt with summarily.

(ii) Where costs were assessed summarily, the court might make an order for payment by some specified date or by instalments. If no such order was made the assessed costs would be payable within 14 days of the date of the order.

(iv) A summary assessment could not be made where any party was not present or where a party was not represented by a solicitor or a person under a disability; see Order 80, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

(v) Order 59, rule 1B(1)(b) of the Rules of the Supreme Court applied both to the court's decision to make a summary assessment of

costs and to the assessment itself.

31 Unless the court otherwise directed:

(i) Not later than 24 hours prior to the commencement of the hearing of every interlocutory application each party who intended to seek a "costs in any event" order had to supply every other party with a brief summary statement of the amount of the costs of the application that he would seek to recover under that order.

(ii) The statement had to state the amount and nature of any disbursements, including counsel's fees, and the amount of the solicitor's profit costs recovery of which would be sought. All amounts had to be shown net of value-added tax. If VAT was to be claimed, the amount of VAT had to be separately shown.

(iii) If the solicitor's profit costs had been calculated on the basis of a rate per hour, the statement had to specify the number of hours, the rate per hour and the grade of fee earner. If the solicitor's profit costs had been calculated on any other basis, the statement had to explain the basis of the calculation thereof.

(iv) The failure by a party with a summary statement to comply with sub-paragraph (i) was to be taken into account by the court in deciding what order in respect of the costs of the application should be made.

(v) The foregoing sub-paragraphs were not to apply where the parties had agreed between them

the amount of the costs for which an order for payment should be made.

(vi) A model form for use when complying with sub-paragraph (i) was annexed (available for Queen's Bench and Chancery cases from the Supreme Court Office, Room E01, Royal Courts of Justice, and for county court cases from any county court.)

4 The present practice direction would come into effect on Monday, March 1, 1999. It did not apply to family proceedings in the High Court or in a county court.

Notes 1 The present practice direction applied only to summary assessment applications. That was in order to enable judges who had not previously been accustomed to assessing costs to gain some experience in doing so in short and simple cases.

It was intended that when the new civil procedure rules and practice directions came into force the restriction of the practice direction to interlocutory hearings would be removed.

In the meantime, the restriction should not be taken as a discouragement to judges who wished to exercise their power to assess costs in cases not falling within the scope of the present practice direction from doing so.

2 Order 38, rule 19(3) of the County Court Rules 1981 required the court to assess costs without a taxation (a) where the costs were awarded on the lower scale and (b) where the costs were awarded on scale 1 and the solicitor for the receiving party so desired.

In cases covered by Order 38, rule 19(3) an assessment was obligatory not discretionary.

In county court proceedings, the court had a discretionary power to assess costs under Order 38, rule 3(3)(d), where costs were awarded on scale 2, and under rule 17B and rule 19(3), where costs were awarded on scale 1 and were not included in the general costs of the action.

Thereafter, in county court proceedings the court had no power to

## Judicial review inappropriate

Ex parte Nacion

It would not normally be appropriate to seek judicial review of the decision of a local housing authority in the exercise of its discretion under section 20(4) of the Housing Act 1985, to refuse to continue to secure that accommodation was made available for a person pending the determination of his appeal to the county court under section 20(1) against the authori-

ty's decision concerning his eligibility for assistance as a homeless person.

LORD WOOLF, Master of the Rolls, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Tuckey, so stated on February 1, refusing a renewed application by Ramon Nacion for leave to continue to secure that accommodation was available for such a person.

accommodation pending determination of his appeal to the county court under section 20(4).

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that judicial review would be an appropriate remedy where the authority had failed to consider whether to exercise its discretion under section 20(4) to continue to secure that accommodation was available for such a person.

## LEGAL &amp; PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

## PUBLIC NOTICES

CARITY COMMISSION Charitable Companies of the United Kingdom. Notice is hereby given that the Charity Commission for England and Wales is holding a public hearing on the application for registration of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The hearing will be held at the offices of the Charity Commission, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0BH, on the 12th day of February 1999 at 10.00 am. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket.

## LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charity Commission for England and Wales is holding a public hearing on the application for registration of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The hearing will be held at the offices of the Charity Commission, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0BH, on the 12th day of February 1999 at 10.00 am. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket.

## LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charity Commission for England and Wales is holding a public hearing on the application for registration of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The hearing will be held at the offices of the Charity Commission, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0BH, on the 12th day of February 1999 at 10.00 am. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charity Commission for England and Wales is holding a public hearing on the application for registration of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The hearing will be held at the offices of the Charity Commission, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0BH, on the 12th day of February 1999 at 10.00 am. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charity Commission for England and Wales is holding a public hearing on the application for registration of the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The hearing will be held at the offices of the Charity Commission, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0BH, on the 12th day of February 1999 at 10.00 am. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket. The hearing will be held in public and any person wishing to attend should apply to the Charity Commission for a ticket.

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN THE TIMES

# DOUBLE YOUR TOKENS IN FEBRUARY

## Children need more books

BONUS TOKENS FROM ASDA

For every Times you buy at an Asda store during February, you will receive a voucher worth another token. The more Times you buy, the more tokens you can collect and the more books your chosen school will be able to order. The double tokens deal also applies to the Sunday Times as you will get a voucher worth an extra four tokens, making eight tokens towards your school's target. You also get extra tokens on Walkers crisps and snacks from Asda, the supermarket which is backing our hugely popular Free Books for Schools campaign. The Double Your Tokens offer applies at all Asda stores throughout February.

Do you know of a school that has initiated an interesting initiative scheme for collecting tokens? Ring The Times hotline today with the story: 0171-936 9018.

CUT OUT THIS TOKEN NOW

THE TIMES

FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS

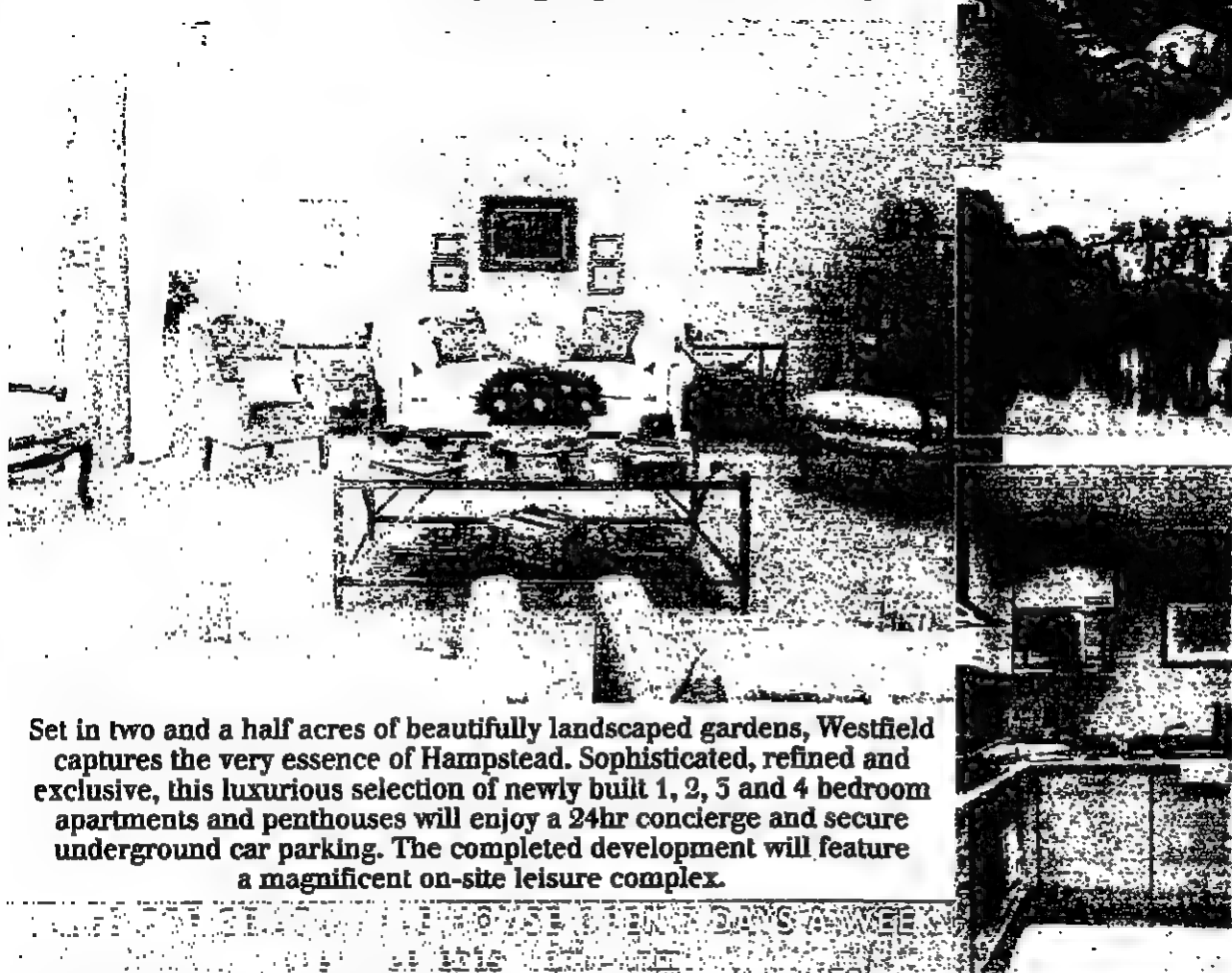
CHANGING TIMES



## NEW HOMES

# If you love Hampstead, you'll love Westfield.

Westfield  
KIDDERPOLE AVENUE,  
LONDON NW3



Set in two and a half acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, Westfield captures the very essence of Hampstead. Sophisticated, refined and exclusive, this luxurious selection of newly built 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments and penthouses will enjoy a 24hr concierge and secure underground car parking. The completed development will feature a magnificent on-site leisure complex.

Maple House, 502 Finchley Road, Hampstead NW3 (corner of Croftway)  
Monday - Friday 11am - 6pm. Saturday and Sunday 11am - 4pm.

Wisteria House and Oak House now available  
Prices range from £295,000 to £865,000

Telephone 0171 435 0200

A JOINT DEVELOPMENT BY



FPD Savills

0171 472 5000

Goldschmidt

0171 435 4404

The model photograph is intended to give a general indication of the proposed development only.



## Chelsea Gate

London SW1

Elegant living - Quality lifestyle from £375,000

- State of the art skirting heating
- Fully integrated kitchens with stainless steel appliances
- CCTV surveillance system • Fully tiled bathrooms

Show Apartments open 11am - 6pm daily  
On-site parking available

Telephone 0171 730 0430

Facsimile 0171 823 4253

www.regalianplc.com

REGALIAN



### EATON MEWS

287 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London SW15

## For a new view on life see our new show house.

With the opening of a new show house at Eaton Mews comes an additional opportunity to sample the charm of this elegant mews of 3, 4 and 5 bedroom townhouses and villas. Created to appeal to the discerning, these classically styled homes have been designed to reflect the architectural style of the area with time honoured detailing including decorative railings, Victorian style lamp posts and cobbled courtyard to enhance the appeal. Inside, meticulously planned layouts and high quality specifications ensure comfortable living. Contact us today to arrange your personal viewing, we are open from 10am to 6pm every day.

0181 789 2222

4 bedroom townhouses  
from £499,950

FPD Savills

Details correct at time of going to press

ST. CECIL  
http://www.stcecil.co.uk

**\* EXCELLENT \* MORTGAGE RATES AVAILABLE \***

**GALLIARD HOMES PRESENT**

**UNRIVALLED OPPORTUNITY FOR 1999!**

**\*\*\* SPECTACULAR VALUE \*\*\***

**APARTMENTS**

...within 1 mile of The City!

**LUXURY APARTMENTS**  
PRICES FROM **£115,995**

**HIGH YIELD AND CAPITAL GROWTH POTENTIAL!**

**9% GROSS RENTAL GUARANTEE FOR 1 YEAR!**

**WE PAY THE 5% DEPOSIT!**

**INVESTMENT MORTGAGES AVAILABLE AT 6.49% FIXED FOR 10 YEARS**

**WULBERRY LONDON E1**

**OPENING WEEKEND**  
10.30AM-5.00PM SAT 6TH-SUN 7TH FEBRUARY 1999

For your convenience Independent Financial Advisers & Solicitors will be in attendance during the Opening Weekend.

**SALES OFFICE & SHOW SUITES OPEN 7 DAYS 10.00AM-5.00PM**  
**FREEPHONE: 0800 42 12 21 (24 HRS)**

**TEL: 0171 375 0427**  
www.galliard-homes.co.uk

#### NORTH OF THE THAMES

CREEKVIEW W2 2yr old 4 bed 2 bath, lovely views, approx. £250,000. Call Alan 0171 292 1438.

COUNTRY HALL - C21, 3 beds, 2 baths, 2000 sq ft, approx. £137,500. Tel: 0171 402 1120.

GLoucester Terrace W2, 3 bed, 2 bath, long lease, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

HARLEY ST, W1, 2yr old 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

WIMBORNE, South Essex, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

WIMBORNE, South Essex, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

WIMBORNE, South Essex, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

WIMBORNE, South Essex, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

WIMBORNE, South Essex, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

#### SOUTH OF THE THAMES

BATTERSEA, SW11, 2yr old, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BATTERSEA, SW11, 2yr old, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BATTERSEA, SW11, 2yr old, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BATTERSEA, SW11, 2yr old, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BATTERSEA, SW11, 2yr old, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BATTERSEA, SW11, 2yr old, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BATTERSEA, SW11, 2yr old, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BATTERSEA, SW11, 2yr old, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BATTERSEA, SW11, 2yr old, 3 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

#### CITY & WEST END

ADOLPHUS PLACE W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

ADOLPHUS PLACE W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

ADOLPHUS PLACE W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

ADOLPHUS PLACE W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

ADOLPHUS PLACE W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

ADOLPHUS PLACE W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

ADOLPHUS PLACE W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

ADOLPHUS PLACE W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

ADOLPHUS PLACE W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

#### CITY & WEST END

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.

BLOOMSBURY W1, 2 bed, 2 bath, approx. £250,000. Tel: 0171 222 1120.



# Best movers of the year

What makes a good estate agent and who is at the top? Rachel Kelly searches out high-flyers

**S**elling your house is an emotional business, famously equal in stress to bereavement and divorce. So, for the third year running, we are responding to readers' requests to list Britain's top agents. Choosing the right name from behind the agency banners can mean the difference between a smooth 12 weeks (the average time it takes to sell a house, according to Black Horse agencies) or a period fraught with tension.

Whatever the firms say in their marketing spiel, individuals, not companies, sell houses. It is an individual's ability to act as salesman, midwife, agony uncle or aunt and deal-maker that not only achieves the best price, but also ensures that a sale proceeds smoothly.

We have again asked the buying agents Property Vision, Bedrock International and Homefront to nominate the movers in the agency world. Such firms work with agents on a daily basis because they act for buyers. We have also asked Stowe Construction for its views. As a developer of houses in the Home Counties and Central London, Stowe has an acute sense of who actually sells the schemes that they have completed.

There are two types of agent. There are those who sit in their offices and wait for the phone to ring, and those who are out in the marketplace, on the street, finding out all and everything about the market in their local area," says Harry Marriott of Stowe.

The best agents have an impressive databank of information in their heads: recent sales, prices per square foot, the condition of the property, who might sell, who is getting divorced, who married, who might buy, who is having a

baby. It is a detailed knowledge of the minutiae of people's lives that makes deals happen for the top operators. They will move quickly to view a property and move mountains to show it (Sundays are no problem if that is what a buyer wants). The smartest agents ride motorbikes (think of Ed Mead at the London agents Douglas & Gordon), which give them an added edge.

The best agents socialise with their clients and in the country that may mean taking up shooting or hunting. And they are friendly with other agents, too: they are a key source of information and potential deals. In London agents share information after an initial attempt to sell on their own.

Good agents are in for the long haul. A successful sale may mean another instruction five years later. The best operators are local, not seeking to master the world, but a few streets or even a square (Graham Scott Dalgleish, from the agents W. A. Ellis, is the expert on Cadogan Square in Chelsea, for example).

Last year was a difficult one for agents. The property market wobbled, then all but died in the autumn as fluctuating world financial markets left buyers and sellers uncertain. In such a climate it takes courage, as Willie Gething of Property Vision says, to sell a potential client that his or her house is worth less than Mrs Jones's three doors down (which has an extra bedroom and has been totally refurbished).

The names on our list should help sellers seeking the best price for their home, and should help buyers too. These are often agents with the best selection on their books. Inevitably, they are biased to the top end of the market because these are the agents known to buying agents.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

AT THE top end of the Central London market, David Forbes of Chesterfield is a pre-eminent deal-maker. Over the past year he has moved west from his Chelsea and Knightsbridge stamping grounds and now sells as often in Wilt and Kensington as in southwest London.

Other names doing the top deals are Alan Russell, of Russell Simpson, who sells some of London's most expensive properties, and Andrew Langton of Aylesea.

In Chelsea, honourable mentions go to Louise Hewlett of Aylesea, and Andy Buchanan, of John D Wood, who knows everything there is to know about Chelsea Square. Still doing deals with persistence and tenacity are Charlotte Mortimer and Jonathan Hewlett at FPD Savills, and Howard Elston of Strutt & Parker.

Mr Hewlett has a lower profile than some, but handled the sale of Lord Lloyd-Webber's house in Eaton Square and is currently selling the Ski Club in Eaton Square for about £15 million. Dick Ford, at Knight Frank in Kensington Church Street, is among the most experienced operators in the Kensington market. His background as the son of a comedian ensures his smooth dealings with sometimes difficult clients, while Ed Mead, of Douglas & Gordon, is making a name for himself selling in South Kensington and Chelsea.

Farther out, Michael Cohn, of John D Wood in Trinity Road, is the best, most professional agent at the top end

of the market in Wandsworth. Niall McMahon, of McMahon & Co, is still selling more houses on communal gardens in W11 than anyone else, his close friendships and long residence in the area making him a natural. Paul Finnegan, of FPD Savills, was cited as a top agent for the most expensive properties in Richmond and Wimbledon and within the M25. "He is very professional, on time and good-humoured," one buying agent says.

In the country, Sam Butler, of Butler Sherbourne in Burford, Oxfordshire, gets top marks. Mr Butler was a partner in Knight Frank and has built up a thriving practice with three or four offices in Gloucestershire. It specialises in the middle and upper end of the market.

Martin Lamb, of Knight Frank in Exeter, is an excellent and convivial agent for the West Country. Tommy de Malet Morgan, of Savills in Guildford, easily defends his place on the previous list.

John Husband, of Humberts in Lewes, East Sussex, is not only an agent who makes deals happen but is also one with an informed view of the marketplace.

Patrick Bailey, of Strutt & Parker in Newbury, specialises in Berkshire property, as does Brenda Coates, of Drewett Neale.

For property in Wiltshire, Graham Waterton, of Strutt & Parker in Salisbury, gets top marks, while Atty Boer-Roberts, of Knight Frank, is recommended for property in Gloucestershire. In Cam-

bridgeshire, Bidwell's Jock Lloyd-Jones in Trumpington ranks highly. In Northamptonshire, those interested in smaller properties will not go far wrong with Richard Jones of Jackson-Stops & Staff. Michael Dunnington of Lane Fox in Winchester, was highly praised, as was Philip Blanchard, of John D Wood's Winchester office.

Farther east, Conrad Payne, of Cluttons Daniel Smith, was cited for his skills in and around Canterbury.

In the Cotswolds, Harry Clegg, of Clegg Kennedy Drew, is recommended for selling farms or estates up to and above £1 million. Robin Thomas, of Strutt & Parker in Exeter, covers Devon, Cornwall and parts of Somerset.

Also in Somerset, try Richard Pawson, of Humberts. Ian Stirling, of Lane Fox in Banbury, has been described as "the best agent in north Oxfordshire". In Exeter, Tim Page-Ratcliffe, of Strutt & Parker, is widely recommended. In Kent, Martyn Phillips of Phillips & Stubbs scored top marks, while in Twickenham, Northamptonshire, Peter Evans of Barram & Co is deemed a significant threat to rival firms.

Farther north, Tim Blenkins, of Blenkins & Co, works with Knight Frank, and is the person to contact for expensive estate sales in Yorkshire, especially in the Humbleton and Howardian Hills area. There are honourable mentions, too, for Tim Waring and Tony Wright, of Carter Jonas in Harrogate. Edward Waterson, of Carter Jonas in York,



was another agent collecting compliments.

In Scotland, James Carnegie-Arthur, of Brodies, comes highly recommended for anyone wishing to sell estates in and around Edinburgh. Simon Rennie, of Rennie & Co, is another rising star, adept at finding houses in Edinburgh from £150,000.

Angus Cheape, of Langley Taylor, once again drew warm reviews. Niall Graham-Campbell is from Finlayson Hughes, one of the few agencies to have an Inverness office. He has carved out a niche selling Highland estates.

## Fancy a Hebridean isle?

Andrew Eames on a Scottish sale

**S**ix crofters on the Scottish island of Barra are putting the tail of the Outer Hebrides on the market. For the past 80 years, the Barra Head islands have been largely uninhabited, but Pabbay once hosted a whisky still for passing fishermen. On Mingulay, the remains of the village are still standing, though only the schoolhouse has a roof.

The crofters are relinquishing the islands with regret, but the simple practicalities of grazing their sheep 25 nautical miles from home make economic nonsense of a tradition that has produced some of the finest organic lamb in the world.

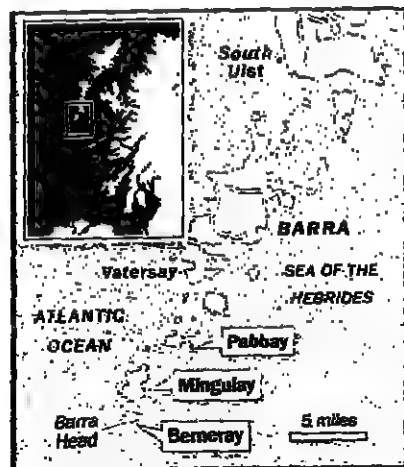
"Sixty-four years ago a sheep from Mingulay sold for £4 a head," Roddy MacLeod, one of the six, says. "This year they sold for £2.20 each — and it cost us £3 to get them to market."

The six Barra families have owned the islands (Mingulay, Berneray, Pabbay and assorted islets) since 1955, but managing them has been back-breaking and bank-breaking work. Take, for example, the annual round-up for market. None of these islands has sheltered landing places for boats, so first you must catch a wild sheep before rucking it under your arm while it struggles furiously, and wade out to a dinghy pitching around in the shallows. Transfer the sheep to the bigger boat and repeat 300 times. Even with subsidies it is pretty unrewarding work.

Everyone who has set foot on Mingulay, the largest of the islands, speaks of its distinctive charm. Long ago it was the inspiration for the *Mingulay Boat Song*, which still features in local ceilidhs.

The 640-hectare island is quite treeless — it is gentle and green on the eastern side, rising to some dramatic cliffs in the west. It has a microclimate that belongs more to the sunshine-rich Trossachs, to its south, than to the misty Outer Hebrides stretching to the north.

Until the beginning of this century the people of Mingulay lived largely by crofting, fishing and eating sea-tride caught from the cliffs. Ian Alan MacNeil, whose mother was from Mingulay, used to run



the small ferry between Barra and the island of Vatersay. He knows how tricky these waters can be. Mr MacNeil recently came to the rescue of Mingulay's temporary resident, the Glasgow-based conceptual artist Julie Brooke, when treacherous autumn weather rendered the island unapproachable for two weeks longer than she had expected.

Ms Brooke, who was seven months pregnant and had been on the island since May, was understandably relieved to see him. "It's going to be a very healthy baby," she says. "It's had plenty of fresh air."

That was Ms Brooke's third season alone on Mingulay, and she described it as something of a personal tragedy that the islands have to be sold. She is accustomed to living alone in the wilds, having spent several years in a cave on the island of Jura until that had become unavailable to her.

The Barra Head crofters allowed her to set up on Mingulay after she gave them a demonstration of her work. She remem-

bers that there was "a sort of silence after the slide show — and then Roddy said it was not really the sort of thing they were used to". Nevertheless, the crofters gave her permission to use the schoolhouse whenever they were not visiting and since then they have been "incredibly supportive" of her work, some of which remains on the island.

Stock management expeditions to outlying uninhabited islands are a part of Hebridean crofting culture. Mr MacLeod and his colleagues used to travel out a couple of times a year to Mingulay and stay there for as long as was necessary.

"It was always hard work, but it was also a good time," he says. "We'd tell all the stories, have a good crack."

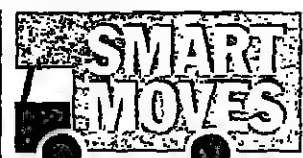
Quite who will be tempted by this fluttering tail of islands is anyone's guess, says Ken MacDonald, the Stormway-based lawyer acting on behalf of the crofters. "I can't recall anything like this ever appearing on the market before," he says. Mr MacDonald expects the larger countryside or wildlife agencies such as the RSPB to enter the bidding, but the latter says that the islands do not have a sufficiently unusual bird population.

The National Trust for Scotland is more positive. "The islands have real scenic and archaeological value," a spokesman says.

Although a full valuation has yet to be completed, there has been talk of a price tag as high as £1 million. "It doesn't sound unreasonable," says the Hamburg-based agent Farhad Vadi, who specialises in selling islands to the very wealthy. "The island market is strong and there hasn't recently been much for sale in Scotland."

For private purchasers the perceived romance of the islands will be crucial. For the agencies, the price could be the sticking point.

Mr MacNeil admits to being unhappy with the idea of his mother's birthplace falling into foreign hands. He returns there quite often in the summer months, taking people to look at where their families once lived. It would be a shame if that tradition, too, had to stop.



THE house featured in the BBC television series *Miss Marple* is for sale. Oak Cottage, Lunscombe Hill, Devon, was built in 1863 and has many period features such as stone mullioned windows, leaded lights, carved corbels and Tudor-style chimneys. A main feature of the house is the classically landscaped garden. Robert Williams's Evers office is selling the four-bedroom house for £240,000.

■ ONE of London's most expensive houses is for sale. The Grade II listed Old Rectory, Old Church Street, Chelsea, was bought by Gianna Angelopoulos, a Greek lawyer, for £25 million in 1995. She and her husband, Dimitris Avramopoulos, have spent £10 million redecorating the 50-room 18th-century home.

■ THE Connaught Square property once home to Victor Lowndes, the head of the British division of the Playboy Club and right-hand man to Hugh Hefner, is on offer. Many celebrities, such as Bill Cosby, Tony Curtis and Warren Beatty, attended parties there in the Sixties. Roman Polanski is said to have held his stag party at the house before his marriage to Sharon Tate. Chestertons Residential Hyde Park office is asking £1.3 million for the lease.

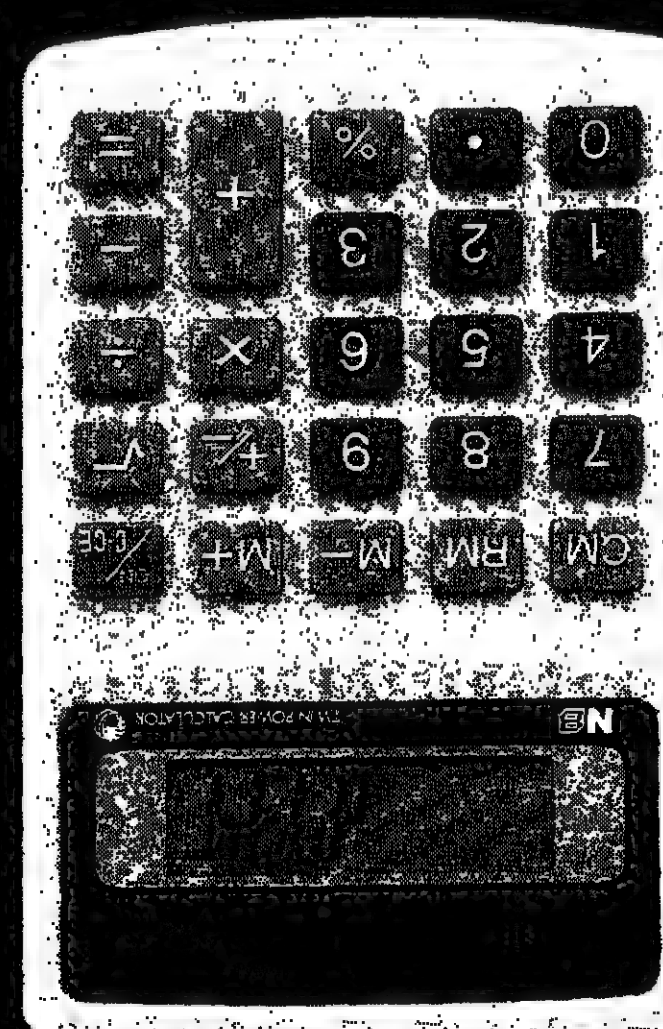
■ THE house of the Rev Francis Kilvert is for sale. *Kilvert's Diary*, published in 1938, elevated this humble parish priest to posthumous world fame and gave a unique insight into the Victorian rural scene in the 1870s. During the last ten years of his life he kept a diary in small notebooks. The most interesting parts were printed but the rest of the diary was destroyed and only three notebooks survived. The Old Vicarage, Bredwardine, Herefordshire, is a five-bedroom house and is for sale through Knight Frank's Hereford office for £425,000.

■ A CLERKENWELL flat designed by Peter Mandelson's architect, Seth Stein, is for rent. The flat, in fashionable St John Street, is nestled between restaurants and bars, including Stephen Bull, Vic Naylor's bar, Cicada and Café Lazzer. Club Gascon is close by. The flat is for rent through Hurford Salvi Carr for £550 a week.

BEN WAKEHAM

30p

THE TIMES



Make your family finances add up with The Times three part Money Guide. Part one, Family Fortunes, is free in The Times on Saturday.

Internet: [www.thetimes.co.uk/money](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/money)

CHANGING TIMES







# Chris McGrath finds Florida Pearl's trainer in confident mood

## Mullins keeper of the faith

It is a plucky hand he is playing, all right, but then that is how the Irish have come to trust him. A lesser man would lose his nerve. At Leopardstown on Sunday, Florida Pearl goes on trial for the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup. He fell in the Epsom Chase there on his reappearance, only the fourth time he had jumped obstacles under Willie Mullins.

Willie Mullins did not panic, did not rush extra experience into him. As a rival trainer puts it: "By God, Willie's going to look some sort of genius if he pulls it off. He'd nearly be one, too."

That messianic spectre, the heir to Arkle, has been perceived more than once in Ireland over the past thirty years or so, but only through a glass darkly — generally followed, in brave sorrow, by several more glasses.

Now, as they drain the black stuff in celebration and conviction, a clearer vision of greatness is emerging in Florida Pearl, as graceful as he is powerful. Yet the more feverish his countrymen, the more placid seems Mullins in his lair under the Blackstairs mountains.

It is not his fault that racing people — in Ireland as anywhere — have such a weakness for prophets and loss, for these beguiling cycles of expectation and disillusion, hope and despair, that this time they have the real thing on their hands. And one has to accept what he says, not merely because he is so genuine, so wholly lacking in vanity, but because he so obviously knows what he is talking about.

His father, Paddy, is the revered patriarch of Irish National Hunt training. Willie, 42, was working for the old man when Dawn Run launched hundreds of tributes into the grandstand roof at Cheltenham after the 1986 Gold Cup.

"Icon" is a word that can be used too freely in such a frivolous context, but Mullins understands how countless ordinary people exult in these dreams. By the same token, he is aware of his responsibilities.

Of the pain that accompanies iconoclasm. Yet he is adamant that this wonderful horse, 17 hands tall with a white blaze, can shoulder the greatest of expectations. "I'm not going to



Mullins checks the wellbeing of Florida Pearl, nearside, after a workout with Alexander Banquet yesterday

try to compare him with Arkle," he says. "He was something else. But I certainly think he's good enough to be the best since."

Nobody, moreover, could demonstrate more credibly that he knows where he stands with a racehorse. The barns at his stables in the Barrow valley, between Carlow and Kilkenny, are identified by the paint on the box doors. In the red barn, three adjacent stalls are occupied by horses that consecrated him as the redeemer of consecutive Festivals for thousands of Irish punters. Wither Or Which, Florida Pearl and Alexander Banquet have won the last three runnings of the Bumper to the relief of their animated supporters.

He rode Wither Or Which himself. "On the morning of the race I heard Ted Walsh on the television talking about the

**RICHARD EVANS**  
After a long time, Evans has been back in the saddle. He was a jockey for many years, and has been a trainer for a long time. He is now a pundit and a writer. He is a very good person, and he is a very good writer. He is a very good person, and he is a very good writer.

Irish banker. He said that they'd better get a good look at him down the start, as that was the last they'd see of him. I asked who he was talking about, and he told me it was Wither Or Which. That was a fair shock to me.

"Then, when we got home — the people who'd left work to go to the betting office, people who'd never set foot in one in their lives. Apparently, they

were crammed. The Irish banker is not the owner's or the trainer's. He belongs to the Irish people. They laugh onto one or two, and that's it."

Florida Pearl has obliged in this role twice already, having returned last year for the Royal & Sun Alliance Chase, and Mullins thinks he is better still this year. He had decided, after the Bumper, not to squander Florida Pearl's precious resources. He would miss out hurdling and run him as sparingly as possible to preserve, with luck, three cracks at the Gold Cup. Everything had gone right until the last ditch at the Christmas meeting, when he was still on the bridle in pursuit of Doran's Pride.

"It could be a blessing in disguise," Mullins said. "Jackie [his wife] always rides the horse and reckons he's very intelligent. What you teach him, he learns, repeats. Richard

[Dunwoody] had not wound him up for the previous five or six fences and asked him just three strides out. In his own mind, the horse was waiting to get reined back just to pop it, hadn't realised he'd got the office to fly it. Maybe next time Richard will know not to ask him so quickly."

However, the dream is alive for the Hennessy on Sunday. Archie O'Leary, the owner of Florida Pearl, rejected an offer of £400,000 this time last year: Mullins disclosed that two further bids, presumably even bigger, had been rejected in the last month. O'Leary remains steadfast. Famously, the Corkman once told a caller: "I am for sale. So is my wife. But the horse is not." As Mullins says: "After all, this is what you strive for. You spend your life trying for this."

O'Leary, a former rugby international, had found sporting fulfilment priceless as an amateur. Embellished by the recent endeavours of Ulster and London Irish, perhaps his successors will shock the French at Lansdowne Road on Saturday. It could be quite a weekend in Dublin.

## Mill Reef's owner dies

PAUL MELLON, 91, a leading owner-breeder, died at his Virginia home on Monday, Ian Balding, who trained Mellon's horses in Britain, said yesterday. "Peter Hastings Bass and before him his father, Aubrey, trained for him before I did. He had horses in Britain for over

50 years. I trained a host of good horses for him, but Mill Reef (Derby, Eclipse Stakes, King George and Prix de l'Art de Triomphe) was the main one."

Obituary, page 19

## WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER

1.30 Peary Queen, 2.00 Frederick James, 2.30 PRIDE OF BRIDGTON (nap), 3.00 China Castle, 3.30 Be Warned, 4.00 West U There, 4.30 Cantegyturbreath

GOING: STANDARD

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.30 CHIVE MAIDEN HANDICAP (Dv F £2,424; 7) (11 runners)

101 (5) 6-24 ARK 14 (8) F Jordan 5-9-11 R Portman 65  
102 (10) 8-00 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
103 (13) 2-00 THUNDERBOLT 108 (1) A Allen 5-9-4 R Portman 65  
104 (10) 0-04 STRAWBERY 8 S Bagg 4-8-13 R Portman 65  
105 (10) 0-04 MAMMOTO 11 (7) D Cogan 5-8-7 G Portman 65  
106 (11) 5-05 SCATTERING SEED 14 S Bagg 4-8-13 R Portman 65  
107 (12) 2-28 PEARY QUEEN 18 G Bagg 4-8-13 R Portman 65  
108 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
109 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
110 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
111 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65

2.00 CHIVE MAIDEN HANDICAP (Dv F £2,411; 7) (10)

201 (5) 6-24 ARK 14 (8) F Jordan 5-9-11 R Portman 65  
202 (10) 8-00 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
203 (13) 2-00 THUNDERBOLT 108 (1) A Allen 5-9-4 R Portman 65  
204 (10) 0-04 STRAWBERY 8 S Bagg 4-8-13 R Portman 65  
205 (10) 0-04 MAMMOTO 11 (7) D Cogan 5-8-7 G Portman 65  
206 (11) 5-05 SCATTERING SEED 14 S Bagg 4-8-13 R Portman 65  
207 (12) 2-28 PEARY QUEEN 18 G Bagg 4-8-13 R Portman 65  
208 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
209 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
210 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65

2.30 SAGE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,015; 5) (8)

301 (4) 0-52 PRIDE OF BRIDGTON 11 (2) A Allen 5-9-4 R Portman 65  
302 (10) 8-00 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
303 (13) 2-00 THUNDERBOLT 108 (1) A Allen 5-9-4 R Portman 65  
304 (10) 0-04 STRAWBERY 8 S Bagg 4-8-13 R Portman 65  
305 (10) 0-04 MAMMOTO 11 (7) D Cogan 5-8-7 G Portman 65  
306 (11) 5-05 SCATTERING SEED 14 S Bagg 4-8-13 R Portman 65  
307 (12) 2-28 PEARY QUEEN 18 G Bagg 4-8-13 R Portman 65  
308 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
309 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65  
310 (10) 0-04 SOCIETY KING 127 J Banks 4-9-4 R Portman 65

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: 1. Bagg, 2. Banks, 3. Bagg, 4. Banks, 5. Bagg, 6. Banks, 7. Bagg, 8. Banks, 9. Bagg, 10. Banks, 11. Bagg, 12. Banks, 13. Bagg, 14. Banks, 15. Bagg, 16. Banks, 17. Bagg, 18. Banks, 19. Bagg, 20. Banks, 21. Bagg, 22. Banks, 23. Bagg, 24. Banks, 25. Bagg, 26. Banks, 27. Bagg, 28. Banks, 29. Bagg, 30. Banks, 31. Bagg, 32. Banks, 33. Bagg, 34. Banks, 35. Bagg, 36. Banks, 37. Bagg, 38. Banks, 39. Bagg, 40. Banks, 41. Bagg, 42. Banks, 43. Bagg, 44. Banks, 45. Bagg, 46. Banks, 47. Bagg, 48. Banks, 49. Bagg, 50. Banks, 51. Bagg, 52. Banks, 53. Bagg, 54. Banks, 55. Bagg, 56. Banks, 57. Bagg, 58. Banks, 59. Bagg, 60. Banks, 61. Bagg, 62. Banks, 63. Bagg, 64. Banks, 65. Bagg, 66. Banks, 67. Bagg, 68. Banks, 69. Bagg, 70. Banks, 71. Bagg, 72. Banks, 73. Bagg, 74. Banks, 75. Bagg, 76. Banks, 77. Bagg, 78. Banks, 79. Bagg, 80. Banks, 81. Bagg, 82. Banks, 83. Bagg, 84. Banks, 85. Bagg, 86. Banks, 87. Bagg, 88. Banks, 89. Bagg, 90. Banks, 91. Bagg, 92. Banks, 93. Bagg, 94. Banks, 95. Bagg, 96. Banks, 97. Bagg, 98. Banks, 99. Bagg, 100. Banks, 101. Bagg, 102. Banks, 103. Bagg, 104. Banks, 105. Bagg, 106. Banks, 107. Bagg, 108. Banks, 109. Bagg, 110. Banks, 111. Bagg, 112. Banks, 113. Bagg, 114. Banks, 115. Bagg, 116. Banks, 117. Bagg, 118. Banks, 119. Bagg, 120. Banks, 121. Bagg, 122. Banks, 123. Bagg, 124. Banks, 125. Bagg, 126. Banks, 127. Bagg, 128. Banks, 129. Bagg, 130. Banks, 131. Bagg, 132. Banks, 133. Bagg, 134. Banks, 135. Bagg, 136. Banks, 137. Bagg, 138. Banks, 139. Bagg, 140. Banks, 141. Bagg, 142. Banks, 143. Bagg, 144. Banks, 145. Bagg, 146. Banks, 147. Bagg, 148. Banks, 149. Bagg, 150. Banks, 151. Bagg, 152. Banks, 153. Bagg, 154. Banks, 155. Bagg, 156. Banks, 157. Bagg, 158. Banks, 159. Bagg, 160. Banks, 161. Bagg, 162. Banks, 163. Bagg, 164. Banks, 165. Bagg, 166. Banks, 167. Bagg, 168. Banks, 169. Bagg, 170. Banks, 171. Bagg, 172. Banks, 173. Bagg, 174. Banks, 175. Bagg, 176. Banks, 177. Bagg, 178. Banks, 179. Bagg, 180. Banks, 181. Bagg, 182. Banks, 183. Bagg, 184. Banks, 185. Bagg, 186. Banks, 187. Bagg, 188. Banks, 189. Bagg, 190. Banks, 191. Bagg, 192. Banks, 193. Bagg, 194. Banks, 195. Bagg, 196. Banks, 197. Bagg, 198. Banks, 199. Bagg, 200. Banks, 201. Bagg, 202. Banks, 203. Bagg, 204. Banks, 205. Bagg, 206. Banks, 207. Bagg, 208. Banks, 209. Bagg, 210. Banks, 211. Bagg, 212. Banks, 213. Bagg, 214. Banks, 215. Bagg, 216. Banks, 217. Bagg, 218. Banks, 219. Bagg, 220. Banks, 221. Bagg, 222. Banks, 223. Bagg, 224. Banks, 225. Bagg, 226. Banks, 227. Bagg, 228. Banks, 229. Bagg, 230. Banks, 231. Bagg, 232. Banks, 233. Bagg, 234. Banks, 235. Bagg, 236. Banks, 237. Bagg, 238. Banks, 239. Bagg, 240. Banks, 241. Bagg, 242. Banks, 243. Bagg, 244. Banks, 245. Bagg, 246. Banks, 247. Bagg, 248. Banks, 249. Bagg, 250. Banks, 251. Bagg, 252. Banks, 253. Bagg, 254. Banks, 255. Bagg, 256. Banks, 257. Bagg, 258. Banks, 259. Bagg, 260. Banks, 261. Bagg, 262. Banks, 263. Bagg, 264. Banks, 265. Bagg, 266. Banks, 267. Bagg, 268. Banks, 269. Bagg, 270. Banks, 271. Bagg, 272. Banks, 273. Bagg, 274. Banks, 275. Bagg, 276. Banks, 277. Bagg, 278. Banks, 279. Bagg, 280. Banks, 281. Bagg, 282. Banks, 283. Bagg, 284. Banks, 285. Bagg, 286. Banks, 287. Bagg, 288. Banks, 289. Bagg, 290. Banks, 291. Bagg, 292. Banks, 293. Bagg, 294. Banks, 295. Bagg, 296. Banks, 297. Bagg, 298. Banks, 299. Bagg, 300. Banks, 301. Bagg, 302. Banks, 303. Bagg, 304. Banks, 305. Bagg, 306. Banks, 307. Bagg, 308. Banks, 309. Bagg, 310. Banks, 311. Bagg, 312. Banks, 313. Bagg, 314. Banks, 315. Bagg, 316. Banks, 317. Bagg, 318. Banks, 319. Bagg, 320. Banks, 321. Bagg, 322. Banks, 323. Bagg, 324. Banks, 325. Bagg, 326. Banks, 327. Bagg, 328. Banks, 329. Bagg, 330. Banks, 331. Bagg, 332. Banks, 333. Bagg, 334. Banks, 335. Bagg, 336. Banks, 337. Bagg, 338. Banks, 339. Bagg, 340. Banks, 341. Bagg, 342. Banks, 343. Bagg, 344. Banks, 345. Bagg, 346. Banks, 347. Bagg, 348. Banks, 349. Bagg, 350. Banks, 351. Bagg, 352. Banks, 353. Bagg, 354. Banks, 355. Bagg, 356. Banks, 357. Bagg, 358. Banks, 359. Bagg, 360. Banks, 361. Bagg, 362. Banks, 363. Bagg, 364. Banks, 365. Bagg, 366. Banks, 367. Bagg, 368. Banks, 369. Bagg, 370. Banks, 371. Bagg, 372. Banks, 373. Bagg, 374. Banks, 375. Bagg, 376. Banks, 377. Bagg, 378. Banks, 379. Bagg, 380. Banks, 381. Bagg, 382. Banks, 383. Bagg, 384. Banks, 385. Bagg, 386. Banks, 387. Bagg, 388. Banks, 389. Bagg, 390. Banks, 391. Bagg, 392. Banks, 393. Bagg, 394. Banks, 395. Bagg, 396. Banks, 397. Bagg, 398. Banks, 399. Bagg, 400. Banks, 401. Bagg, 402. Banks, 403. Bagg, 404. Banks, 405. Bagg, 406. Banks, 407. Bagg, 408. Banks, 409. Bagg, 410. Banks, 411. Bagg, 412. Banks, 413. Bagg, 414. Banks, 415. Bagg, 416. Banks, 417. Bagg, 418. Banks, 419. Bagg, 420. Banks, 421. Bagg, 422. Banks, 423. Bagg, 424. Banks, 425. Bagg, 426. Banks, 427. Bagg, 428. Banks, 429. Bagg, 430. Banks, 431. Bagg, 432. Banks, 433. Bagg, 434. Banks, 435. Bagg, 436. Banks, 437. Bagg, 438. Banks, 439. Bagg, 440. Banks, 441. Bagg, 442. Banks, 443. Bagg, 444. Banks, 445. Bagg, 446. Banks, 447. Bagg, 448. Banks, 449. Bagg, 450. Banks, 451. Bagg, 452. Banks, 453. Bagg, 454. Banks, 455. Bagg, 456. Banks, 457. Bagg, 458. Banks, 459. Bagg, 460. Banks, 461. Bagg, 462. Banks, 463. Bagg, 464. Banks, 465. Bagg, 466. Banks, 467. Bagg, 468. Banks, 469. Bagg, 470. Banks, 471. Bagg, 472. Banks, 473. Bagg, 474. Banks, 475. Bagg, 476. Banks, 477. Bagg, 478. Banks, 479. Bagg, 480. Banks, 481. Bagg, 482. Banks, 483. Bagg, 484. Banks, 485. Bagg, 486. Banks, 487. Bagg, 488. Banks, 489. Bagg, 490. Banks, 491. Bagg, 492. Banks, 493. Bagg, 494. Banks, 495. Bagg, 496. Banks, 497. Bagg, 498. Banks, 499. Bagg, 500. Banks, 501. Bagg, 502. Banks, 503. Bagg, 504. Banks, 505. Bagg, 506. Banks, 507. Bagg, 508. Banks, 509. Bagg, 510. Banks, 511. Bagg, 512. Banks, 513. Bagg, 514. Banks, 515. Bagg, 516. Banks, 517. Bagg, 518. Banks, 519. Bagg, 520. Banks, 521. Bagg, 522. Banks, 523. Bagg, 524. Banks, 525. Bagg, 526. Banks, 527. Bagg, 528. Banks, 529. Bagg, 530. Banks, 531. Bagg, 532. Banks, 533. Bagg, 534. Banks, 535. Bagg, 536. Banks, 537. Bagg, 538. Banks, 539. Bagg, 540. Banks, 541. Bagg, 542. Banks, 543. Bagg, 544. Banks, 545. Bagg, 546. Banks, 547. Bagg, 548. Banks, 549. Bagg, 550. Banks, 551. Bagg, 552. Banks, 553. Bagg, 554. Banks, 555. Bagg, 556. Banks, 557. Bagg, 558. Banks, 559. Bagg, 560. Banks, 561. Bagg, 562. Banks, 563. Bagg, 564. Banks, 565. Bagg, 566. Banks, 567. Bagg, 568. Banks, 569. Bagg, 570. Banks, 571. Bagg, 572. Banks, 573. Bagg, 574. Banks, 575. Bagg, 576. Banks, 577. Bagg, 578. Banks, 579. Bagg, 580. Banks, 581. Bagg, 582. Banks, 583. Bagg, 584. Banks, 585. Bagg, 586. Banks, 587. Bagg, 588. Banks, 589. Bagg, 590. Banks, 591. Bagg, 592. Banks, 593. Bagg, 594. Banks, 595. Bagg, 596. Banks, 597. Bagg, 598. Banks, 599. Bagg, 600. Banks, 601. Bagg, 602. Banks, 603. Bagg, 604. Banks, 605. Bagg, 606. Banks, 607. Bagg, 608. Banks, 609. Bagg, 610. Banks, 611. Bagg, 612. Banks, 613. Bagg, 614. Banks, 615. Bagg, 616. Banks, 617. Bagg, 618. Banks, 619. Bagg, 620. Banks, 621. Bagg, 622. Banks, 623. Bagg, 624. Banks, 625. Bagg, 626. Banks, 627. Bagg, 628. Banks, 629. Bagg, 630. Banks, 631. Bagg, 632. Banks, 633. Bagg, 634. Banks, 635. Bagg, 636. Banks, 637. Bagg, 638. Banks, 639. Bagg, 640. Banks, 641. Bagg, 642. Banks, 643. Bagg, 644. Banks, 645. Bagg, 646. Banks, 647. Bagg, 648. Banks, 649. Bagg, 650. Banks, 651. Bagg, 652. Banks, 653. Bagg, 654. Banks, 655. Bagg, 656. Banks, 657. Bagg, 658. Banks, 659. Bagg, 660. Banks, 661. Bagg, 662. Banks, 663. Bagg, 664. Banks, 665. Bagg, 666. Banks, 667. Bagg, 668. Banks, 669. Bagg, 670. Banks, 671. Bagg, 672. Banks, 673. Bagg, 674. Banks, 675. Bagg, 676. Banks, 677. Bagg, 678. Banks, 679. Bagg, 680. Banks, 681. Bagg, 682. Banks, 683. Bagg, 684. Banks, 685. Bagg, 686. Banks, 687. Bagg, 688. Banks, 689. Bagg, 690. Banks, 691. Bagg, 692. Banks, 693. Bagg, 694. Banks, 695. Bagg, 696. Banks, 697. Bagg, 698. Banks, 699. Bagg, 700. Banks, 701. Bagg, 702. Banks, 703. Bagg, 704. Banks, 705. Bagg, 706. Banks, 707. Bagg, 708. Banks, 709. Bagg, 710. Banks, 711. Bagg, 712. Banks, 713. Bagg, 714. Banks, 715. Bagg, 716. Banks, 717. Bagg, 718. Banks, 719. Bagg, 720. Banks, 721. Bagg, 722. Banks, 723. Bagg, 724. Banks, 725. Bagg, 726. Banks, 727. Bagg, 728. Banks, 729. Bagg, 730. Banks, 731. Bagg, 732. Banks, 733. Bagg, 734. Banks, 735. Bagg, 736. Banks, 737. Bagg, 738. Banks, 739. Bagg, 740. Banks, 741. Bagg, 742. Banks, 743. Bagg, 744. Banks, 745. Bagg, 746. Banks, 747. Bagg, 748. Banks, 749. Bagg, 750. Banks, 751. Bagg, 752. Banks, 753. Bagg, 754. Banks, 755. Bagg, 756. Banks, 757. Bagg, 758. Banks, 759. Bagg, 760. Banks, 761. Bagg, 762. Banks, 763. Bagg, 764. Banks, 765. Bagg, 766. Banks, 767. Bagg, 768. Banks, 769. Bagg, 770. Banks, 771. Bagg, 772. Banks, 773. Bagg, 774. Banks, 775. Bagg, 776. Banks, 777. Bagg, 778. Banks, 779. Bagg, 780. Banks, 781. Bagg, 782. Banks, 783. Bagg, 784. Banks, 785. Bagg, 786. Banks, 787. Bagg, 788. Banks, 789. Bagg, 790. Banks, 791. Bagg, 792. Banks, 793. Bagg, 794. Banks, 795. Bagg, 796. Banks, 797. Bagg, 798. Banks, 799. Bagg, 800. Banks, 801. Bagg, 802. Banks, 803. Bagg, 804. Banks, 805. Bagg, 806. Banks, 807. Bagg, 808. Banks, 809. Bagg, 810. Banks, 811. Bagg, 812. Banks, 813. Bagg, 814. Banks, 815. Bagg, 816. Banks, 817. Bagg, 818. Banks, 819. Bagg, 820. Banks, 821. Bagg, 822. Banks, 823. Bagg, 824. Banks, 825. Bagg, 826. Banks, 827. Bagg, 828. Banks, 829. Bagg, 830. Banks, 831. Bagg, 832. Banks, 833. Bagg, 834. Banks, 835. Bagg, 836. Banks, 837. Bagg, 838. Banks, 839. Bagg, 840. Banks, 841. Bagg, 842. Banks, 843. Bagg, 844. Banks, 845. Bagg, 846. Banks, 847. Bagg, 848. Banks, 849. Bagg, 850. Banks, 851. Bagg, 852. Banks, 853. Bagg, 854. Banks, 855. Bagg, 856. Banks, 857. Bagg, 858. Banks, 859. Bagg, 860. Banks, 861. Bagg, 862. Banks, 863. Bagg, 864. Banks, 865. Bagg, 866. Banks, 867. Bagg, 868. Banks, 869. Bagg, 870. Banks, 871. Bagg, 872. Banks, 873. Bagg, 874. Banks, 875. Bagg, 876. Banks, 877. Bagg, 878. Banks, 879. Bagg, 880. Banks, 881. Bagg, 882. Banks, 883. Bagg, 884. Banks, 885. Bagg, 886. Banks, 887. Bagg, 888. Banks, 889. Bagg, 890. Banks, 891. Bagg, 892. Banks, 893. Bagg, 894. Banks, 895. Bagg, 896. Banks, 897. Bagg, 898. Banks, 899. Bagg, 900. Banks, 901. Bagg, 902. Banks, 903. Bagg, 904. Banks, 905. Bagg, 906. Banks, 907. Bagg, 908. Banks, 909. Bagg, 910. Banks, 911. Bagg, 912. Banks, 913. Bagg, 914. Banks, 915. Bagg, 916. Banks, 917. Bagg, 918. Banks, 919. Bagg, 920. Banks, 921. Bagg, 922. Banks, 923. Bagg, 924. Banks, 925. Bagg, 926. Banks, 927. Bagg, 928. Banks, 929. Bagg, 930. Banks, 931. Bagg, 932. Banks, 933. Bagg, 934. Banks, 935. Bagg, 936. Banks, 937. Bagg, 938. Banks, 939. Bagg, 940. Banks, 941. Bagg, 942. Banks, 943. Bagg, 944. Banks, 945. Bagg, 946. Banks, 947. Bagg, 948. Banks, 949. Bagg, 950. Banks, 951. Bagg, 952. Banks, 953. Bagg, 954. Banks, 955. Bagg, 956. Banks, 957. Bagg, 958. Banks, 959. Bagg, 960. Banks, 961. Bagg, 962. Banks, 963. Bagg, 964. Banks, 965. Bagg, 966. Banks, 967. Bagg, 968. Banks, 969. Bagg, 970. Banks, 971. Bagg, 972. Banks, 973. Bagg, 974. Banks, 975. Bagg, 976. Banks, 977. Bagg, 978. Banks, 979. Bagg, 980. Banks, 981. Bagg, 982. Banks, 983. Bagg, 984. Banks, 985. Bagg, 986. Banks, 987. Bagg, 988. Banks, 989. Bagg, 990. Banks, 991. Bagg, 992. Banks, 993. Bagg, 994. Banks, 995. Bagg, 996. Banks, 997. Bagg, 998. Banks, 999. Bagg, 1000. Banks, 1001. Bagg, 1002. Banks, 1003. Bagg, 1004. Banks, 1005. Bagg, 1006. Banks, 1007. Bagg, 1008. Banks, 1009. Bagg, 1010. Banks, 1011. Bagg, 1012. Banks, 1013. Bagg, 1014. Banks, 1015. Bagg, 1016. Banks, 1017. Bagg, 1018. Banks, 1019. Bagg, 1020. Banks, 1021. Bagg, 1022. Banks, 1023. Bagg, 1024. Banks, 1025. Bagg, 1026. Banks, 1027. Bagg, 1028. Banks, 1029. Bagg, 1030. Banks, 1031. Bagg, 1032. Banks, 1033. Bagg, 1034. Banks, 1035. Bagg, 1036. Banks, 1037. Bagg, 1038. Banks, 1039. Bagg, 1040. Banks, 1041. Bagg, 1042. Banks, 1043. Bagg, 1044. Banks, 1045. Bagg, 1046. Banks, 1047. Bagg, 1048. Banks, 1049. Bagg, 1050. Banks, 1051. Bagg, 1052. Banks, 1053. Bagg, 1054. Banks, 1055. Bagg, 1056. Banks, 1057. Bagg, 1058. Banks, 1059. Bagg, 1060. Banks, 1061. Bagg, 1062. Banks, 1063. Bagg, 1064. Banks, 1065. Bagg, 1066. Banks, 1067. Bagg, 1068. Banks, 1069. Bagg, 1070. Banks, 1071. Bagg, 1072. Banks, 1073. Bagg, 1074. Banks, 1075. Bagg, 1











# Harlequins lure back Carling

FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 80.2-82.4. RADIO 4. FM  
WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am).  
1187, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.  
Rosemary Smith, Susan Thompson, Jane Gregory and



# The curious urge to expose your failings

You wouldn't want to spend even two minutes in Ian Hinde's filthy flat (decorative style: IRA dirty protest) any more than you'd want to lick the seat on a Number 11 bus. The colonies of bacteria in Ian's fridge have grown so large they now have their own postcode. If the makers of *Coming Clean* — The Truth About Housework (BBC2) — announced that they had gathered this gruesome footage by filming secretly inside a British prison cell, there'd be calls for Jack Straw's resignation as Home Secretary.

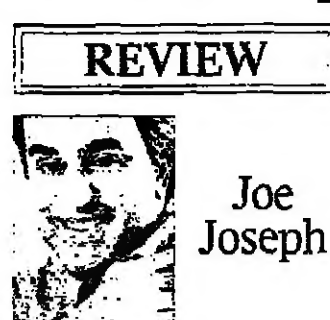
Jennifer Grimshaw, a retired London businesswoman who shares Ian's belief that cleanliness is next to fascism, had also been somehow persuaded to let the filmmakers past her front door. Jennifer would be Magritte's Surreal idea of a cleaning lady. "I don't wash up," she announced briskly, before she'd even introduced herself. "I do not scrub. I do not clean

the silver. I do not rinse my glasses. I think housework is a mug's game." Behind her was an apartment designed by very shrewd Neighbourhood Watch consultants: clothes, saucepans, cups, shoes were strewn randomly, as if to dupe a burglar into thinking that he'd been beaten to the scene by a rival thief who had already ransacked the place.

Then Vicky Keane, a student sharing a flat in Leeds with several other girls, said "I absolutely insist on an unmade bed," as if she were telling us primly that she always insists on the milk being poured into the cup after the tea. "I just can't see the point in making a bed, because 12 hours later it's going to be messed up right again and that is just a pure waste of time in my mind." Luckily we don't yet have Smell-O-Vision television, because presumably Vicky doesn't see any point in washing

herself too thoroughly either, since she'd only have to wash herself all over again a few hours later (but does Vicky — knowing that she'll crave another Chinese meal half an hour after finishing the first one — not bother squandering the effort involved in eating the first Chinese meal at all?). "It's all linked to the fact that I want to be a career girl," says Vicky, unironically, "and I just haven't got time for clearing up. It's just girl power, really." If this is supposed to be a plug for girl power, let's assume the career Vicky's got in mind isn't public relations.

Even more baffling than trying to fathom why anybody voluntarily chooses to live this way (unless they're on a fat retractor from researchers at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases to contract hideous unknown bacterial infections) is trying to work out why anybody would agree to ex-



Joe Joseph

pose their insanitary homes to such a huge audience. Jennifer Grimshaw told us: "I don't want people in my home. That shows too much of me, and if people come into my house I feel very defensive." So then why let the BBC's cameras in?

ed itself as a documentary which "dares to question whether monogamy still has a place in today's society." It was like those documentaries which dare to question (very kindly) whether the streets of Britain have become so lawless that we risk being felled in a drive-by shooting whenever we pop out to buy a newspaper before concluding (very quickly) that, um, actually no they haven't.

Andy and Fiona, the film's two main swingers, weren't even swinging by the end of it — not with each other at any rate; they were about to separate. Andy, who claimed to have such a high libido that it was one of his heavy burdens in life, was considerably keener on messing around with other women than his wife was on messing around with other men. Sometimes Andy secretly messed around with other women without telling Fiona — not because he and Fiona didn't have an honest open

relationship, or because she might get jealous, oh no; but because, as he explained, telling her would be like "bragging." This must be why Bill Clinton never mentioned anything about Monica Lewinsky to Hillary or to Kenneth Starr or to Congress for so long: the President didn't want to seem as if he was boasting about his sexual conquests, that's all.

Then Bob told us about his wife's "S" days. On days when his wife, Sue, is wearing her special "S" on her necklace Bob can order her to perform any sexual whim — including picking up strange men on a Tube train and bringing them home for sex so that Bob can watch.

You see, when Sue's wearing the "S" on her necklace, she's my slave for the day. So "S" is for slave. "S" is for sex. "S" is for Sue. Curiously, Bob never gets to wear a necklace bearing the letter "M" — as in

"M" for master, "M" for manly, "M" for mutton.

Look, nobody minds what these people do, let alone cares. But why do they want us all to know? Again, in *Full Metal Backpack*, last night's film for Channel 4's season of *Short Stories*, several drunk young Britons let themselves be filmed as they made fools of themselves on holiday in Vietnam and Cambodia. Perhaps they didn't realise how they would come across in Dimitri Donskoi's film: maybe they didn't care. A disillusioned young Scot lamented: "It's slightly disappointing to come all this way and still be yourself." So who's the self he soached to be? Bruce Chanvin? The Dalai Lama? No. Martin Sheen, in a GI outfit, in *Apocalypse Now*. The Vietnamese were discreetly silent. It was only their eyes that said, "And Westerners bombed us because they thought their culture was superior to ours?"

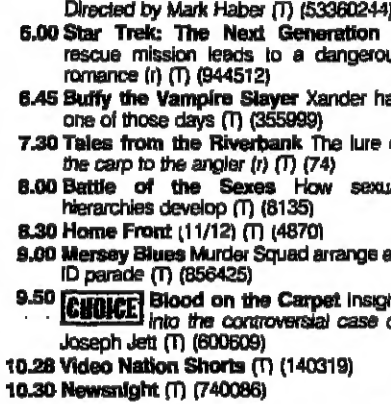
**BBC1**  
6.00am Business Breakfast (64316)  
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (33116)  
9.00am Killy (18341241)  
9.45am The Vanessa Show (14757116)  
10.00am News: Weather (16812680)  
11.00am Real Romance (653357)  
11.35am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (16809116)  
11.55am News: Weather (11082203)  
12.00pm Call My Bluff (88777)  
12.30pm Wipeout (5217785)  
12.55pm The Weather Show (14855067)  
1.00pm One O'Clock News (136033)  
1.30pm Regional News: Weather (14727135)  
1.40pm Neighbours (12515630)  
2.05pm Ironside A stylish bank robbery appears to be the work of a known ex-con, but could there be a copycat at large? With Raymond Burr (13203951)  
2.55pm Body Spies Two women cut their drinking session (5557241)  
3.25pm Children's BBC: Playdays (6470970)  
3.45pm Little Monsters (2240574) 3.50pm Chucklevision (519086) 4.10pm See It Saw It (3682880) 4.35pm The Wild Show (5242135) 6.00pm Newsround (2782203) 8.10pm Blue Peter (6334845)  
8.35pm Neighbours (11713002)  
9.00pm Six O'Clock News: Weather (196)  
9.30pm Regional News Magazine (48)



Jeremy Spake, the Aeroflot supervisor at Heathrow (7pm)

7.00am Airport Aeroflot supervisor Jeremy Spake receives a tempting offer, while Royal Suite manager Anita Newcourt faces a crisis (1) (1845)  
7.30pm Dream House The team struggle to get their 21st-century home ready for its new occupants (1) (32)  
8.00pm Changing Rooms A Bolton woman swaps houses with her Mum for a spot of radical redecorating (1) (8703)  
8.30pm Battersea Dogs' Home Staff at the famous kennels set about rehoming stray dogs (1) (380154)  
8.50pm The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories The story of a man and his lucky car which found its way home eight years after it was sold. Plus, live coverage of the mid-week draw (1) (298945)  
9.00pm Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (17864)  
9.25pm National Lottery Update (763999)  
9.30pm The X-Files Mulder investigates an unsolved case of murders dating back to 1952 (1) (150339)  
10.15pm [CHOICE] Inside Story The former gateway driver of the Darnley Nicholls describes what prompted him to turn supergrass (3/5) (153593)  
11.10pm Deadly Whispers (1994) Premiere. Psychological thriller about a devoted family man whose world falls apart when he is implicated in the murder of his daughter. Tony Danza and Pamela Reed star. Directed by Bill Norton (1) (400319)  
12.00am Weather (7647568)  
12.45pm BBC News 24 (65079452)

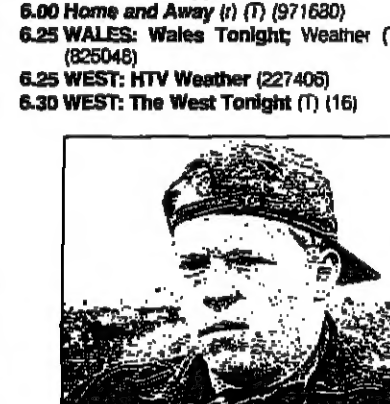
**BBC2**  
7.00am CBC Breakfast Show: Tales of the Tooth Fairies (3508390) 7.05pm Teletubbies (6426932) 7.30pm Secret Squirrel and Co (6212999) 7.55pm The Really Wild Show (6508390) 8.25pm Rowan (6452330) 8.55pm Taz-Mania (7395951) 9.45pm Pukka Dot Shorts (676222) 9.50pm Tales of the Tooth Fairies (3372512) 9.50pm Images (6338195) 9.10pm What? Where? When? Why? (5938339) 9.25pm The Art (4183048) 9.45pm News and Pictures (1233243) 10.00pm Teletubbies (24970) 10.30pm Numberline (2280319) 10.45pm Cats' Eyes (227674) 11.00pm Around Scotland (5819965) 11.20pm The Geography Programme (5829551) 11.40pm Science in Action (8970135) 12.00pm Revista (585512) 12.15pm Halo aus Berlin (747777) 12.30pm Working Lunch (45113) 1.00pm Brum (94538357)  
1.10pm The Travel Hour (6282319)  
2.10pm Sporting Greats (1344828)  
2.40pm News: Weather (13600406)  
2.45pm Westminster (12507932)  
3.55pm News: Weather (16541864)  
4.00pm Turning Points The Marquess of Bath in conversation (4395241)  
4.05pm Birds with Tony Soper (3609357)  
4.25pm Daisies in December (TVM 1995) A florist falls for a standstill stockbroker during a holiday in Cornwall. Jean Simmons and John Ackland. Directed by Mark Haber (1) (5336024)  
5.00pm Star Trek: The Next Generation A rescue mission leads to a dangerous romance (1) (944512)  
6.45pm Buffy the Vampire Slayer Xander has one of those days (1) (355999)  
7.30pm Tales from the Riverbank The lure of the carp to the angler (1) (74)  
8.00pm Battle of the Sexes How sexual hierarchies develop (1) (8135)  
8.30pm Home Front (1/12) (1) (4870)  
9.00pm Mersay Blues Murder Squad appear in a parade (1) (858425)  
9.50pm [CHOICE] Blood on the Carpet Insight into the controversial case of Joseph Jett (1) (800609)  
10.25pm Video Nation Shorts (1) (400319)  
10.30pm Newsnight (1) (740086)



The composer Pierre Boulez talks about his life and work (11.15pm)

11.15pm [CHOICE] Pierre Boulez: A Life in Seven Chapters The celebrated French composer-conductor in conversation (1) (868116)  
11.55pm Despatch Box (64487)  
12.00am Despatch Box (64487)  
12.30pm BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Sex and the Single Girl? 1.00pm The Art of Breathing 1.30pm Galapagos: Research in the Field 2.00pm Mathematics — Math-sphere Edits: Algebra 4.00pm Languages: The French Experience 5.00pm Voluntary Matters — Selling Yourself 5.30pm 20 Steps to Better Management: Making the Most of Yourself 6.45pm Open University: Reinvented in the Arctic 6.10pm Why We? 6.35pm Brief Encounter

**HTV**  
5.30am ITN Morning News (17959)  
6.00pm GMTV (201222)  
9.25pm Trisha (1) (5718067)  
10.30pm This Morning (1) (1815574)  
12.15pm HTV News (1) (7484203)  
12.30pm ITN Lunchtime News: Weather (1) (31357)  
1.00pm WEST: Next Stop Richard Wyatt, Polly Lloyd and correspondents review local news and events live from Watford and Wilton in Somerset (51999)  
1.00pm WALES: Shortland Street Minnie makes a major mistake (61999)  
1.30pm Home and Away Tegan and Joey split up (1) (30638)  
2.00pm The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous US talk show (1) (5134908)  
2.45pm Dale's Supermarket Sweep (1) (400970)  
3.15pm ITN News Headlines (1) (9307488)  
3.20pm HTV News (1) (652311)  
3.25pm CITY: Mopstop's Shop (3707244) 3.35pm Teddypops (3428425) 3.45pm Jurnani (5899796) 4.10pm Whizzwig (5634574) 4.40pm Mad for It (257338)  
5.10pm A Country Practice Tom, Harry, Kate and Anna go camping (9574135)  
5.40pm ITN Early Evening News: Weather (1) (548241)  
5.50pm HTV Crimestopper (663390)  
6.00pm Home and Away (1) (9574135)  
6.25pm WALES: Wales Tonight: Weather (1) (825048)  
6.35pm WEST: HTV Weather (227405)  
6.50pm WEST: The West Tonight (1) (15)



Butch (Paul Loughran) learns the upsetting truth about Belle (7pm)

7.00pm Emmerdale Turner introduces the new bar manager and Butch Dingle discovers that Zak has been using Belle (1) (9241)  
7.30pm Coronation Street Natalie and Colin draw closer (1) (28)  
8.00pm Midsummer Murders The naked body of a young woman is found strangled in local woodland. Starring John Nettles, Daniel Casper, Phyllis Logan and Tracie Styler (1) (8086)  
10.00pm News at Ten: Weather (1) (74574)  
10.30pm HTV News and Weather (1) (862600)  
10.40pm The Big Match Highlights of tonight's FA Cup fourth-round replays (47359048)  
12.15pm True Identity (1991) Lenny Henry stars as a struggling actor who disguises himself as a white man to escape the clutches of the Mafia. Directed by Charles Lane (302742)  
1.55pm The Jerry Springer Show (1) (197891)  
2.40pm Masterclass With saxophone maestro Chris 'Snake' Davis (1628452)  
3.05pm Trisha Show earlier (1) (7838075)  
1.10pm The Making of Very Bad Things Feature on the comedy thriller starring Cameron Diaz (1674655)  
4.40pm ITN Nightline Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (83967636)  
5.00pm Coronation Street Show earlier (1) (1) (60278)

**CENTRAL**  
As HTV West except:  
12.20-12.30pm Central News: Weather (1663135)  
1.00pm Echo Point (61999)  
1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (1957756)  
2.15-2.45pm Home and Away (169999)  
3.20-3.25pm Central News (6053311)  
5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (9574135)  
6.25-7.00pm Central News: Weather (625048)  
10.30-10.40pm Central News: Weather (625048)  
1.00pm Central Jobfinder '99 (4156051)  
5.20-5.30pm Asian Eye (7626556)  
**WESTCOUNTRY**  
As HTV West except:  
12.15-12.27pm Westcountry News: Weather (7484203)  
12.27-12.30pm Illuminations (8891154)  
1.00pm Emmerdale (61999)  
1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (1957756)  
2.15-2.45pm Home and Away (169999)  
3.20-3.25pm Westcountry News: Weather (6053311)  
5.08pm Birthday People (569661)  
5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (9574135)  
6.00-7.00pm Westcountry Live (16048)  
10.30-10.40pm Westcountry News: Weather (625048)

**MERIDIAN**  
As HTV West except 12.15pm-12.30pm Meridian News: Weather (7484203) 1.00-1.35pm Shortland Street (9574135) 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (1) (9574135) 6.00pm Meridian Tonight (1) (64) 6.30-7.00pm Birdwatch (5/6) (1) (16) 10.30-10.40pm Meridian News: Weather (1) (862600) 5.00am-5.30pm Freescreen (1) (60278)  
**ANGLIA**  
As HTV West except 12.15pm Anglia Air Watch (8895970) 12.20-12.30pm Anglia News and Weather (8895970) 1.00-1.35pm Shortland Street (9574135) 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (1) (9574135) 6.00pm Anglia Tonight (1) (64) 6.30-7.00pm Birdwatch (5/6) (1) (16) 10.30-10.40pm Anglia News and Weather (1) (862600)

**S4C**  
Starts 6.00am Sesame Street (1) (47948864) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (3446328) 9.00pm Yagellon: French Express (4343593) 9.25pm Schools At Work (83789512) 9.30pm Rat-a-Tat-Tat (94500999) 9.45pm Book Box (94599154) 10.00pm Stage Two Science (20602116) 10.15pm All About Us (2062567) 10.30pm The French Programme (899999) 10.50pm The French Programme (1) (21282222) 11.00pm Dwr, Aer, Tir (5858564) 11.15pm Tackling Technology (95873715) 11.30pm Powerhouse (1) (40864509) 12.00pm Home Improvement (1) (29874222) 12.30pm Sesame Street (1) (38429608) 1.00pm Planned Plant (1) (34485715) 1.30pm The Ocean World of John Stenhouse (1) (88375125) 1.55pm FILM: Wales No Man's Land (1) (81326241) 8.00pm Fflemio (1) (64835715) 8.30pm Pacio (1) (64814222) 9.00pm ER (1) (6666785) 10.00pm Brookside (1) (60516832) 10.30pm Sex and the City (1) (56923970) 11.05pm Sex and the City (1) (67764154) 11.35pm The Mark Thomas Comedy Product (1) (67764154) 12.05pm Music of the Millennium (1) (33513471) 12.55pm Football Italia: Mezzanotte (19497075) 2.30pm Trans World Sport (64360297) 4.20pm Diwedd

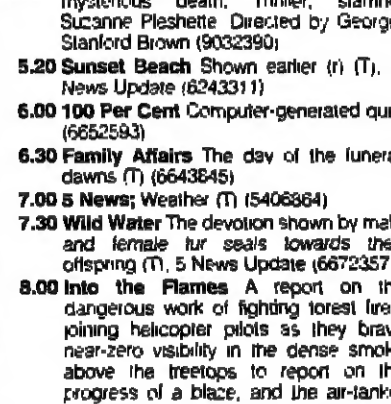
**CHANNEL 4**  
6.00am Sesame Street (1) (47948864) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (1) (59154) 9.00pm Schools: French Express (1459997) 9.25pm Schools At Work (9461154) 9.30pm Rat-a-Tat-Tat (1260338) 9.45pm Book Box (1275533) 10.00pm Stage Two Science (9414402) 10.15pm All About Us (94137357) 10.30pm Channel Hopping (737154) 10.50pm Stop, Look, Listen (990222) 11.00pm First Edition: VI (8553203) 11.15pm Tackling Technology (8576154) 11.30pm Powerhouse (1) (1067) 12.00pm Sesame Street (1) (47948864) 12.30pm Switched In (1) (39959) 1.00pm Pet Rescue The work of RSPCA centres (1) (523241) 1.30pm Roots to Success (15902593) 1.50pm The Feminine Touch (1956) A student nurse falls for a handsome doctor, but finds herself torn between continuing her training or going to Canada with him. Romantic drama, starring George Baker Directed by Pat Jackson (1) (9691854) 3.30pm Hampton Court Palace (1) (2) 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (1) (57) 4.30pm Countdown (1) (6236674) 4.55pm Ricki Lake (1) (3890777) 5.30pm Pet Rescue A pregnant cat poses a problem (1) (83) 6.00pm Late Lunch with Mel and Sue Richard E Grant joins Sue Perkins and Mel Giedroyc (1) (85693) 7.00pm Channel 4 News: Weather (1) (429999) 7.55pm Music of the Millennium Shane MacGowan (1) (130351) 8.00pm Brookside Nani evens the score with Benny (1) (3203) 8.30pm The Real Holiday Show Holiday-makers seek the ultimate high, from a flight across Africa, to a spiritually awakening trip to Barbados and a Sri Lankan adventure (1) (12338)



Dr. Greene (Anthony Edwards) shows Lucy (Katie Martin) the ropes (9pm)

9.00pm ER The long-awaited new series of the medical drama sees a third-year student put through her paces in the thick of things (1) (2048) 10.00pm [CHOICE] Sex and the City New comedy series set in New York, about a group of women friends who resolve to take a fresh look at their sex lives (1) (7216) 10.30pm Sex and the City Came down a hunk (1) (8164) 11.00pm Mark Thomas Comedy Product Topical comedy observations (1) (230319) 11.30pm Music of the Millennium (1) (330319) 12.25am boardstupid goes skating The third round of the World Downhill (1) (6296261) 12.55pm Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of the week's action (1) (13015617) 3.20pm Trans World Sport (9549034) 4.20pm What a Crazy World (1989) Joe Brown stars as an aspiring rock star desperate for fame and fortune. Comedy musical, with Susan Maughan Directed by Michael Carter (3072636)

**CHANNEL 5**  
6.00am 5 News and Sport With Evely Anderson (5832574) 7.00pm WorldWide Pan tour The creativity of the South African Ndebele women (1) (6207715) 7.30pm Mikhael (7094829) 7.35pm Wives House (1) (3452541) 8.00pm Havalakoo (1) (4235715) 8.30pm Dappled Farm (1) 5 News Update (475896) 9.00pm Hot Property (1) (1827222) 9.25pm Russell Gurney's Postcards (7652593) 9.30pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (635777) 10.20pm Sunset Beach Gregory Ousestons Ban about Mena (1) (1305870) 11.10pm Lezza (4714593) 12.00pm 5 News at Noon (1) (4205574) 12.30pm Family Affairs Dave has a narrow escape (1) (1) 5 News Update (3257048) 1.00pm The Bold and the Beautiful Jessica refuses to see Dylan (1) (620686) 1.30pm The Roseanne Show Entertainment chat show, presented by outspoken comedienne Roseanne Barr (5898319) 2.00pm 100 Per Cent Gold (542045) 2.30pm Good Afternoon e (1055625) 3.30pm Command in Hell (TVM 1988) A female police officer encounters a wall of science while investigating a colleague's mysterious death. Thriller, starring Suzanne Pleshette Directed by George Stanford Brown (9032390) 5.20pm Sunset Beach Show earlier (1) (1) 5 News Update (475896) 6.00pm 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (6652583) 6.30pm Family Affairs The day of the funeral dawns (1) (6643645) 7.00pm 5 News: Weather (1) (5406864) 7.30pm Wild Water The devotion shown by male and female fur seals towards their offspring (1) 5 News Update (6672357) 8.00pm Into the Flames A report on the dangerous world of fighting forest fires, piloting helicopters, pilots as they brave near-zero visibility in the dense smoke above the treetops to report on the progress of a blaze, and the air-lifter pilots who swoop down to collect water from lakes and reservoirs before dropping it on to the flames (1) 5 News Update (1564086) 9.00pm Triple Crown (TVM 1995) A married couple, whose lives have been torn apart by a divorce, are determined to catch them before he retires. Drama, starring Patrick Bergin, Ashley Laurence and Billy Dee Williams Directed by William Weintraub (1) 5 News Update (669836) 10.50pm Not Melting Richard Whitley (8591999) 11.30pm Sunset Luck Cube is given a mysterious luck cube — a powerful gift which enables him to locate clues as to the whereabouts of his long-lost brother (9371664) 12.25am NHL: American Ice Hockey New York Rangers at Washington Capitals (1278263) 4.40pm The Morning Chart Show News and reviews (1) (65297907) 5.05pm Move On Up (1) (46103029) 5.30pm 100 Per Cent (1) (9124704)



Richard Whitley (11.30pm)

**VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes**  
The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes. For more details on the programmes and their codes, see the VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes section on page 10 of the TV Guide. For more details on the programmes and their codes, see the VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes section on page 10 of the TV Guide.

For further listings see Saturday's Vision  
**SKY ONE**  
7.00am Court Dusk (1) 7.30pm Chris Evans (47155) 8.30pm Hollywood Squares (19691) 9.00pm Sally Jessy Raphael (52086) 10.00pm Oprah Winfrey (76856) 11.00pm Guller (76856) 12.00pm Jerry Jones (74086) 1.00pm Mad About You (94025) 1.30pm Jeopardy! (44222) 2.00pm The Price Is Right (19691) 3.00pm Jerry Jones (56116) 4.00pm Guller (69911) 5.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (6154) 6.00pm Married... With Children (8926) 6.30pm Friends (5207) 7.00pm Simpsons (9633) 7.30pm Simpsons (9633) 8.00pm Simpsons (9633) 8.30pm Simpsons (9633) 9.00pm Simpsons (9633) 9.30pm Simpsons (9633) 10.00pm Simpsons (9633) 10.30pm Simpsons (9633) 11.00pm Simpsons (9633) 11.30pm Simpsons (9633) 12.00pm Simpsons (9633) 12.30pm Simpsons (9633) 1.00am Simpsons (9633) 1.30am Simpsons (9633) 2.00am Simpsons (9633) 2.30am Simpsons (9633) 3.00am Simpsons (9633) 3.30am Simpsons (9633) 4.00am Simpsons (9633) 4.30am Simpsons (9633) 5.00am Simpsons (9633) 5.30am Simpsons (9633) 6.00am Simpsons (9633) 6.30am Simpsons (9633) 7.00am Simpsons (9633) 7.30am Simpsons (9633) 8.00am Simpsons (9633) 8.30am Simpsons (9633) 9.00am Simpsons (9633) 9.30am Simpsons (9633) 10.00am Simpsons (9633) 10.30am Simpsons (9633) 11.00am Simpsons (9633) 11.30am Simpsons (9633) 12.00am Simpsons (9633) 12.30am Simpsons (9633) 1.00am Simpsons (9633) 1.30am Simpsons (9633) 2.00am Simpsons (9633) 2.30am Simpsons (9633) 3.00am Simpsons (9633) 3.30am Simpsons (9633) 4.00am Simpsons (9633) 4.30am Simpsons (9633) 5.00am Simpsons (9633) 5.30am Simpsons (9633) 6.00am Simpsons (9633) 6.30am Simpsons (9633) 7.00am Simpsons (9633) 7.30am Simpsons (9633) 8.00am Simpsons (9633) 8.30am Simpsons (9633) 9.00am Simpsons (9633) 9.30am Simpsons (9633) 10.00am Simpsons (9633) 10.30am Simpsons (9633) 11.00am Simpsons (9633) 11.30am Simpsons (9633) 12.00am Simpsons (9633) 12.30am Simpsons (9633) 1.00am Simpsons (9633) 1.30am Simpsons (9633) 2.00am Simpsons (9633) 2.30am Simpsons (9633) 3.00am Simpsons (9633) 3.30am Simpsons (9633) 4.00am Simpsons (9633) 4.30am Simpsons (9633) 5.00am Simpsons (9633) 5.30am Simpsons (9633) 6.00am Simpsons (9633) 6.30am Simpsons (9633) 7.00am Simpsons (9633) 7.30am Simpsons (9633) 8.00am Simpsons (9633) 8.30am Simpsons (9633) 9.00am Simpsons (9633) 9.30am Simpsons (9633) 10.00am Simpsons (9633) 10.30am Simpsons (9633) 11.00am Simpsons (9633) 11.30am Simpsons (9633) 12.00am Simpsons (9633) 12.30am Simpsons (9633) 1.00am Simpsons (9633) 1.30am Simpsons (9633) 2.00am Simpsons (9633) 2.30am Simpsons (9633) 3.00am Simpsons (9633) 3.30am Simpsons (9633) 4.00am Simpsons (9633) 4.30am Simpsons (9633) 5.00am Simpsons (9633) 5.30am Simpsons (9633) 6.00am Simpsons (9633) 6.30am Simpsons (9633) 7.00am Simpsons (9633) 7.30am Simpsons (9633) 8.00am Simpsons (9633) 8.30am Simpsons (9633) 9.00am Simpsons (9633) 9.30am Simpsons (9633) 10.00am Simpsons (9633) 10.30am Simpsons (9633) 11.00am Simpsons (9633) 11.30am Simpsons (9633) 12.00am Simpsons (9633) 12.30am Simpsons (9633) 1.00am Simpsons (9633) 1.30am Simpsons (9633) 2.00am Simpsons (9633) 2.30am Simpsons (9633) 3.00am Simpsons (9633) 3.30am Simpsons (9633) 4.00am Simpsons (9633) 4.30am Simpsons (9633) 5.00am Simpsons (9633) 5.30am Simpsons (9633) 6.00am Simpsons (9633) 6.30am Simpsons (9633) 7.00am Simpsons (9633) 7.30am Simpsons (9633) 8.00am Simpsons (9633) 8.30am Simpsons (9633) 9.00am Simpsons (9633) 9.30am Simpsons (9633) 10.00am Simpsons (9633) 10.30am Simpsons (9633) 11.00am Simpsons (9633) 11.30am Simpsons (9633) 12.00am Simpsons (9633) 12.30am Simpsons (9633) 1.00am Simpsons (9633) 1.30am Simpsons (9633) 2.00am Simpsons (9633) 2.30am Simpsons (9633) 3.00am Simpsons (9633) 3.30am Simpsons (9633) 4.00am Simpsons (9633) 4.30am Simpsons (9633) 5.00am Simpsons (9633) 5.30am Simpsons (9633) 6.00am Simpsons (9633) 6.30am Simpsons (9633) 7.00am Simpsons (9633) 7.30am Simpsons (9633) 8.00am Simpsons (9633) 8.30am Simpsons (9633) 9.00am Simpsons (9633) 9.30am Simpsons (9633) 10.00am Simpsons (9633) 10.30am Simpsons (9633) 11.00am Simpsons (9633) 11.30am Simpsons (9633) 12.00am Simpsons (9633) 12.30am Simpsons (9633) 1.00am Simpsons (9633) 1.30am Simpsons (9633) 2.00am Simpsons (9633) 2.30am Simpsons (9633) 3.00am Simpsons (9633) 3.30am Simpsons (9633) 4.00am Simpsons (9633) 4.30am Simpsons (9633) 5.00am Simpsons (9633) 5.30am Simpsons (9633) 6.00am Simpsons (9633) 6.30am Simpsons (9633) 7.00am Simpsons (9633) 7.30am Simpsons (9633) 8.00am Simpsons (9633) 8.30am Simpsons (9633) 9.00am Simpsons (9633) 9.30am Simpsons (9633) 10.00am Simpsons (9633) 10.30am Simpsons (9633) 11.00am Simpsons (9633) 11.30am Simpsons (9633) 12.00am Simpsons (9633) 12.30am Simpsons (9633) 1.00am Simpsons (9633) 1.30am Simpsons (9633) 2.00am Simpsons (9633) 2.30am Simpsons (9633) 3.00am Simpsons (9633) 3.30am Simpsons (9633) 4.00am Simpsons (9633) 4.30am Simpsons (9633) 5.00am Simpsons (9633) 5.30am Simpsons (9633) 6.00am Simpsons (9633) 6.30am Simpsons (9633) 7.00am Simpsons (9633) 7.30am Simpsons (9633) 8.00am Simpsons (9633) 8.30am Simpsons (9633) 9.00am Simpsons (9633) 9.30am Simpsons (9633) 10.00am Simpsons (9633) 10.30am Simpsons (9633) 11.00am Simpsons (9633) 11.30am Simpsons (9633) 12.00am Simpsons (9633) 12.30am Simpsons (9633) 1.00





## MOTOR RALLYING 37

McRae lets rip at incompetence of Ford team

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 3 1999

## CRICKET 37

Taylor calls time on illustrious Test match career



Hoddle's departure leaves FA technical director in temporary charge of England

# Wilkinson picks up the pieces

By ROB HUGHES, CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

IN THE modern world of football, covering 203 nations, there must be a managerial departure a day. But never could there have been one so strange, or in the end so tinged with decency, as the removal of Glenn Hoddle after his words that caused such offence to the disabled. May the karma and the football man never be linked again.

You may rest assured that, for as long or as short as he is given, Howard Wilkinson will not bring a faith healer, a spiritualist or anyone so remotely unexpected into the England camp. "I feel like a potato in a microwave, being well and truly cooked from all angles, getting hotter and hotter," Wilkinson said seven years ago, when he was the manager of Leeds United and the chairman of the League Managers' Association.

He spoke of dealing in the heat of the spotlight with players, referees, directors and the media. But this outwardly dour Yorkshireman, as tough as grit and yet sensitive to criticism and to the thoughts of others, will not stray into such a monumental error that has just vacated the post to him.

He may have only the match against France at Wembley a week today to make his mark; he may not want more, he may not be granted more. It must be assumed that Wilkinson, the Football Association's technical director, is now the third "acting" official in high capacity at Lancaster Gate.

Not that the incumbents are in a position to be mocked this morning. Their situation would have taxed the wisdom of Job, given the stubbornness with which Hoddle defended — and at first denied — the statement that ultimately led to his downfall.

However, when David Davies, the acting chief executive of the FA, paused last night to say that the hurt felt by Hoddle and his employers was "as nothing to any offence felt by the disabled people in our country", let no one say that

the "new" FA misconstrued the depth of feeling throughout the country, from Parliament down.

Football thus has a chance to repair the damage, to move closer to the people it serves, and the action starts in the capable — the cliché says safe — hands of Wilkinson.

We may find, as the microphones are thrust before him, that the bewilderment that lingers from Eric Cantona's "scagulls following the trawler" conundrum are crystal clear compared with the philosophical maze that Wilkinson, on his day, can construct. It may not even be heard in English. "Nil illegitimi carborundum" was Wilkinson's compassionate telephoned message to John Beck when he was struggling as manager of Cambridge United. Beck is not the scholar that Wilkinson, 55,

made himself, and so he had to explain: "Don't let the bastards grind you down."

His education came through force of will, through attending Sheffield University to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree while being player-manager of Boston United — all this

because, in his own estimation, he was "a bricklayer's labourer" of a player when he led the attack for, briefly, Sheffield Wednesday and then Brighton and Hove Albion. He used his education to teach at a grammar school for two years and then, having reached the status of FA regional coach by 1980, joined Notts County, where Jimmy Sirrel, the carniest of Scottish managers, predicted that his young assistant would one day coach England.

Wilkinson's great triumph, his meticulous and dogged period in charge of Leeds United, was the making of his managerial name. He followed Brian Clough, Jimmy Armfield, Jock Stein, Allan Clarke, Eddie Gray and Billy Bremner through the revolving door at Elland Road and, in tandem with Leslie Silver, the chairman, achieved what all of



Better times: Wilkinson, left, who takes over the England team from Hoddle for the game with France, on being appointed FA technical director

them could not. He hauled Leeds from the brink of the old third division to the championship of England, he restored the club's fortunes, he booted it onto the community and he built a youth production line that David O'Leary is now benefiting from.

After he was dismissed by a new board he reluctantly took the job of challenging the biggest divide in English football, of breaking the mistrust that had grown between the FA under his dogmatic predecessor, Charles Hughes, and the schools. That job, despite Wilkinson's pioneering schools of excellence programme, is anything but complete. Three decades of poor dogma, of lamentable attempts to consign the whole of

English football to the longball game, will not be erased overnight. Some say that Wilkinson is himself a disciple of the longball game. He resents that as an insult to his intelligence, and he is an educated man.

This, indeed, might be the difference between Hoddle and Wilkinson. Hoddle went to school, but never had to doubt that he would be a player, and a great one at that. He never doubted his superiority, or that, in the footballing sense, he was from a different planet to the English.

Wilkinson has been down where average players have to work, to persevere to make the slightest impression. Yet, though he is patently given to mixing the four-letter word

with the scholastic, he chafed the media on his first day as the manager of Leeds in 1988 with this homily: "Anyone can intellectualise about what is aesthetically acceptable football. If I had the world's best XI, I'd tell them to

End of the road.....1  
Simon Barnes.....36  
Oliver Holt.....36  
Gifts and gaffes.....36

go out, play, win 28-0... and do it nicely."

Because he is the thinking man's artisan, because he relishes his grasp of French and northern English, because Howard Wilkinson never assumed that things happened

by accident, he will have been preparing — from the moment that *The Times* landed on his doormat last Saturday morning — how he might plot the downfall of France at Wembley should the challenge be offered him. It now has been, and the Yorkshire seagull has the trawler in its sights.

What may come as a blessed relief is that Wilkinson, minor's son to football manager of the moment, has no false illusions about who, or what, he is. "We are football managers, nothing else," he has said. "We are not clergymen, not nursemaids, not policemen or social workers. We look after players, and some managers in England once recognised that an increase in physical input to a game could compensate

for technical deficiencies. I was once one of them."

William Hill make Wilkinson 6-5 favourite to succeed Hoddle permanently. Other odds include: 4-1 Kevin Keegan and David Platt, 6-1 Terry Venables, 8-1 Bryan Robson, 12-1 Gerard Houllier, John Gregory and Arsene Wenger, 16-1 Roy Hodgson, 25-1 George Graham, Raul Gullit, Bobby Robson and Alex Ferguson.

## Remarks made position untenable

IN THE end, there was no shock or surprise. Football had braced itself for the departure of Glenn Hoddle from the moment that the England coach's words appeared in *The Times*.

Even his closest colleagues in football had no sympathy for a man whom they regarded highly as both player and coach.

Terry Neill, who gave Hoddle his debut with Tottenham Hotspur, put it simply: "He screwed up. As a person, he comes across as a crank."

"I always found Glenn a nice individual, though I didn't always agree with his views on life. It is probably — for Glenn and for English football — the right decision."

Graham Kelly, the former chief executive of the Football Association, summed up the

### REACTION

reason Hoddle fell from grace: "I am very sad that a few incautious words forced him to leave his job. I feel for the people who have been upset by this. The disabled were let down by what Glenn allegedly said."

"But I am also sad that Glenn Hoddle has had to leave his job. He didn't feel that he had done anything wrong, but clearly the FA decided this was the best way to go."

David Mellor, the chairman of the Football Task Force and one of Hoddle's biggest critics, said that "English football was being dragged down by Glenn Hoddle's bizarre beliefs".

"I take no pleasure in the demise of Glenn Hoddle, but I do not think he gave the FA any choice. His personal beliefs have become inextricably linked with his job."

For Gordon Taylor, the chairman of the Professional Footballers' Association, the players' union, the question of Hoddle's departure from the England job was not a matter for debate — only the timing was at issue. He said: "I would have been surprised if he had still been in the job."

KEVIN EASON

## FA offers farce and intrigue in build-up on judgment day

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, was dismissed by the Football Association last night — only the second manager of the national team to lose his job in such a manner. After a day of meetings, and discussions and negotiations between FA officials and Hoddle and his advisers, the termination of his contract was announced by David Davies, an executive director of the FA, at 6.55pm.

Davies read from a statement and would not take questions. He said: "After more than 24 hours of meetings and discussions, it has become apparent to all concerned that this was the right decision for England. The FA and Glenn Hoddle have agreed to terminate Glenn's contract. The position had become untenable."

"He accepts that he made an error of judgment and he has apologised. It has been painful for everyone over the past few days but that is nothing compared to the offence caused to disabled people. We accept that this wasn't Glenn's intent."

At that moment, Davies was interrupted by a far, wearing a Liverpool away shirt, who had sneaked into the room. "We want Hoddle out," he shouted, before be-



Russell Kempson on how the troubled career of the national coach was ended

ing wrestled to the ground by security staff and taken away.

Davies, apparently unmoved by the incident, went on: "Sorry about that short intermission." He added: "Glenn has served the team with dedication and loyalty but eventually all parties agreed that this was the best way forward."

It had been a day of intrigue, at times almost farcical, as the media representatives hurried between No 16 Lancaster Gate, the FA headquarters, and the nearby Park Court Hotel. The FA's fair-play flag fluttered from the FA building in the breeze as fair play, at some discreet location, was decided.

At 1.50pm Hoddle had been spotted leaving the offices of his agent, Dennis Roach, near Hammersmith, and the crowd of photographers, television cameramen and reporters flocked to

wards the door of No 16. "Mr Hoddle will not be coming here," an FA minion said, laughing at the disappointment on the faces of the throng.

The journalists at the Park Court, hoping to catch a word from or at least a glimpse of members of the FA sub-committee that would decide Hoddle's fate, were not amused, either.

Representatives of the sub-committee — comprising Noel White, a director of Liverpool and the chairman of the FA's international committee, David Dein, vice-

chairman of Arsenal, Geoff Thompson, the acting FA chairman, Dave Richards, the Sheffield Wednesday chairman, and Davies — were believed to have met Hoddle on Monday night. Their brief was to ask him for his explanation of why he said that disabled people

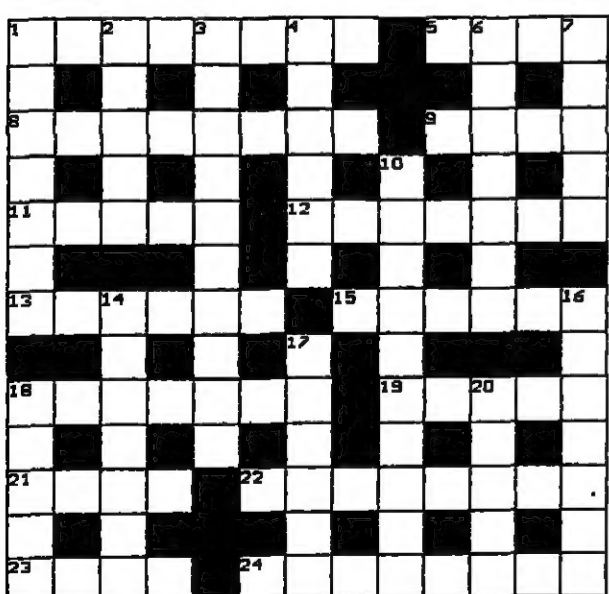
were being punished for misdemeanours in a past life. They listened to his answers and then reported to the international committee yesterday. It was the sub-committee that had met after the World Cup finals, to agree with Hoddle a pay rise of £100,000 to £350,000-a-year.

Once the committee had digested Hoddle's words it is believed to have met again yesterday morning. It then reported to the international committee, which acted on its recommendations. The size of Hoddle's compensation for the remaining 1½ years on his contract — understood to be in the region of £500,000 — would also have been discussed.

Davies finally arrived shortly before 7pm, looking tense. It was he who ghosted Hoddle's book — *Glenn Hoddle: My 1998 World Cup Story* — and it was he who had to make the final pronouncement. "Howard Wilkinson will take charge for the game against France on February 10," he concluded.

So ended a momentous day in the history of the Football Association. In little more than six weeks, it had lost Keith Wiseman, its chairman, Kelly, its chief executive and Hoddle, its national team manager.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1631

### ACROSS

- 1 Unthinking (reaction) (4-4)
- 5 Comb (wool): ticket (4)
- 8 Indefatigable (8)
- 9 Caesar's France (4)
- 11 — Flashman: pester, ravage (5)
- 12 Clothes for washing (7)
- 13 Constricted (6)
- 15 Edible bit of nut (6)
- 16 Blockade (town) (7)
- 19 Rustle (lower) (5)
- 21 Eloquent: deceptive (4)
- 22 Undeviating (8)
- 23 Outhouse: drop (4)
- 24 Sensible caution (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Food preparation area (7)
- 2 Mistake (5)
- 3 Pirate's flag (5,5)
- 4 (Good) outcome (6)
- 6 Forsake (7)
- 7 Hold up (5)
- 10 NE Aussie state (10)
- 14 Fidgety, ill at ease (7)
- 16 Crescent-shaped recess: dome light (7)
- 17 One putting up game (6)
- 18 Counterfeit (5)
- 20 An inert gas, element no. 18 (5)

### SOLUTION TO NO 1630

- ACROSS: 1 Beside 4 Feud 9 Piano 10 Hearsay 11 Driller  
12 Toxin 13 White-collar 17 Haver 19 Aladdin  
22 Whiting 23 Samba 24 Rust 25 Keynes  
DOWN: 1 Biped 2 Slavish 3 Drool 5 Essex 6 Drying  
7 Short-change 8 Paster 14 Turgid 15 Abdomen 16 Shower  
18 Veins 20 Aisle 21 Nears

## THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE  
The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7) £2.99. The Times Crosswords (Book 20) £2.99. The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Book 3) is available to Times readers for just 4 (RRP £4.99) while stock lasts from The Times Bookshop.  
The Times Computer Crosswords can be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other book from The Times Bookshop.  
To order simply call 0900 134 450 for credit card orders or for further details, if paying by cheque. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

## MORSE

Getting any business started with e-commerce applications requires the skills and support of more than one company.

This is why Sun Microsystems has forged alliances with leading e-commerce organisations to help its customers.



Morse is proud to be one of Sun's partners. With first hand experience of putting both our own and a range of clients' e-commerce systems in place, we have much to offer.

To find out more about this, and why Morse is Sun's largest partner in Europe, please visit:

www.morse.com



Net you see

and we'll prove it to you

1.8 million pages of UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content

• Massive, exclusive UK business content